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THE LATE PROFESSOR KARL STOERK.

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OBITUARY NOTICE.

WE regret very much to announce the death of Professor Karl Stoerk, which took place in Vienna on the 13th of September. Buda Pesth and Vienna are historically associated with the earliest clinical applications of the laryngoscope, and Professor Stoerk's name is therefore particularly interesting, inasmuch as he was a student of both places, and a graduate of the latter. Forty-one years ago Professor Stoerk became a Doctor of Medicine of Vienna University, and since then he did much as an enthusiastic clinical observer, skilful operator, able teacher and writer to build up the great reputation for which the Vienna Medical School of Laryngology has been so famous.

Associated as he was with Türck, he had an opportunity of giving some of the first demonstrations upon treatment controlled by the use of the laryngeal mirror, and as early as 1860, following the steps of Czermack and Semeleder, he published important articles upon the newer art of rhinoscopy. Speaking about œsophagoscopy, Morell Mackenzie says the older surgeons did not appear to have endeavoured to overcome the difficulties, and the first attempt to examine the gullet during life would seem to have been made by Semeleder and Stoerk in 1866. The idea of the instrument seems to have originated with the former, who submitted himself to the latter for experiment. In 1881 Professor Stoerk described a new instrument for the purpose of examining the œsophagus, and

thus we see his name will always be associated with the earliest attempts to overcome the difficulties of examination of the gullet. These examples are but suggestions of his great ingenuity in devising new instruments or modifying the same, as every student in Vienna was familiar with the pages of the catalogues of the different instrument makers, describing sets of endolaryngeal and other instruments "nach Stoerk."

As might be expected from one who had the opportunity early in his career, and in the beginning of a new art, Professor Stoerk earnestly studied many of the affections of the larynx and neighbouring organs. So we find his early writings largely devoted to ordinary ailments, such as acute and chronic catarrh, and the term *blenorrhœa* of the mucous membranes of the nose, larynx and trachea is but an example of his careful and extensive investigations. It is impossible, however, to refer in detail to his many clinical observations and writings; suffice it to say that his name is familiar in the medical literature of every country where laryngology is taught. His skill as a teacher was universally recognised, and many men who were privileged to follow his clinic, now practitioners or teachers of laryngology themselves, are to be found in every part of the world. As an operator, Professor Stoerk deservedly excited the admiration of all his followers, and his methods and dexterity, whether in the nose, larynx or œsophagus could not be surpassed if equalled by any of his contemporaries.

His principal writings are: "A Work on Laryngology," published in 1872; "Klinik der Krankheiten des Kehlkopfes, der Nase und des Rachens," in 1876; "Klinik der Kehlkopfkrankheiten," in 1880; and his text-book on "Diseases of the Nose, Pharynx and Larynx," which has been lately published as part of Professor Nothnagel's great treatise on medicine.

Professor Stoerk graduated in 1858, and the year following became assistant physician to the general hospital of Vienna. In 1864 he became Privatdocent, in 1875 he was appointed Extraordinary Professor of Laryngology, and in 1894, when Professor Schrötter became Professor of Internal Medicine, Professor Stoerk succeeded him as Ordinary Professor of Laryngology in the same university.

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