

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR J. E. MOURE

(1855-1941)

Bordeaux

WITH the death of Moure of Bordeaux, at the age of 86, there disappears a colleague with a world-wide reputation and the leading laryngologist of France since the beginning of this century. He came after such early pioneers as Schrötter and Stoerk in Vienna, Gerhardt and Fraenkel in Berlin, Massei in Naples, Fauvel in Paris and Morell Mackenzie in London. They belong to the days when the laryngologist was chiefly a physician. For any operation more serious than a tonsillotomy the general surgeon was called in. Even a tracheotomy was left to him as well as the first operation on the larynx and sinuses.

The last decade of last century saw the evolution which was to make laryngology more surgical and less medical and Moure was one of the most successful pioneers in this development. As is well known, the growth and direction of the arts and sciences in France is largely centralized in Paris; but Moure in his work attained such a reputation that the first professorship of Otolaryngology in a University of France was established in Bordeaux and he was elected to the chair. In 1880, at the early age of twenty-five, he founded the monthly *Revue de Laryngologie*, converted later into a weekly journal. He carried on the heavy tasks of editing this, directing a large clinic, and managing an extensive practice until, only a few years ago, he passed on all these duties to his son-in-law, Professor Georges Portmann. He was a great worker. His clinic, for forty years, attracted visitors from many countries and particularly from the Latin countries in Europe and South America. In Bordeaux he taught many students who secured the Professorships which were, later on, established in other provincial Universities in France and elsewhere.

He was President of the International Congress of Otology in Paris in 1922. Besides his weekly journal he published and read at various Congresses many valuable communications. In 1902 he fully described lateral Rhinotomy as a route of approach to malignant diseases in the maxillary, ethmoid or sphenoidal sinuses, an operation which has so largely supplanted the mutilating and generally useless operations when surgical measures were in the

Obituary

hands of general surgeons. His name will always be associated with those of Schmiegelow, Chiari, Delavan and Chevalier Jackson in establishing the treatment of intrinsic cancer of the larynx by the laryngo-fissure route, although the work of Semon and Butlin is so generally recognized abroad that a thyrotomy is not infrequently referred to as "l'opération Anglaise". It is curious that, precisely like Butlin and Semon, he was so disappointed with his pioneer efforts in this direction that he pronounced the fissure route "a bad operation for cases of extensive, intrinsic, laryngeal cancer". That was in 1891; yet, by 1898, with further knowledge of the necessary limitations of this route, he was able to publish excellent results and even to show that, if an early recurrence was promptly diagnosed and treated, a second laryngo-fissure can secure a lasting cure. He was one of the first to recognize that complete laryngectomy is required when an intrinsic case was too extensive for a fissure, and also to teach that complete excision of the larynx was generally useless when the lymphatic are invaded (1914).

Moure's talents were recognized by foreign governments and many academies. He was one of the select number of Honorary Fellows of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine.

His chief distraction was in the care of his vineyards and the cultivation of his noted "Bordeaux Wines", with which he used to welcome so many of his visitors. He retired completely from practice a few years ago, enjoyed many years of vigorous old age and died at Cannes on December 21st, 1941.

StC.T.