

THE
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,
RHINOLOGY, AND OTOTOLOGY.

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OBITUARY.

W. SPENCER WATSON, M.B.LOND., F.R.C.S.

ONE of the pioneers in British rhinology has recently passed away in the person of Mr. W. Spencer Watson at the age of seventy. For a number of years he has lived in retirement and he has scarcely been heard of among the present generation of rhinolaryngologists. In the history of the surgery of the accessory sinuses of the nose his name ought, however, to hold an honoured place. In his work on "Diseases of the Nose," published in 1875, he gave an excellent account of "abscesses of, or suppuration in, the antrum." In it he stated that "in some cases the only indication of suppuration going on in the antrum is the ozænic stench and the occasional discharge of pus." He drew particular attention to the fact, now well recognised but then scarcely known, that there may be "no pain nor distension and no external objective signs whatever of the presence of pus in the antral cavity." He further states that "examination of the nostrils by means of the speculum should not be omitted, though the evidence conveyed by it may be merely negative, but it may disclose a trickling of pus into the middle meatus; and if, on inclining the patient's head to the opposite side and again examining the nostril, we find that the flow of pus into the middle meatus is very much increased, the diagnosis is rendered much clearer as to the antrum being the part involved." In view of this it is strange that the history of the subject should with us be supposed to start at the time of Ziem's

epochal publication, though it must at the same time be admitted that it was Ziem who most loudly proclaimed the fundamental truth of the modern surgery of the antrum. Had Watson been less retiring, nasal surgery as we now understand it would have established itself earlier in this country. Among the first to show cases illustrating the successful application of these principles was the late Mr. Lennox Browne in 1879. Spencer Watson was an active ophthalmologist and wrote a valuable monograph on diseases of the lachrymal apparatus. His colleagues in that department held him in the highest esteem, and his memory may well be cherished by those who have profited by the advances in modern rhinology.

Our photograph of the late Mr. Spencer Watson is from a painting by Mr. George Spencer Watson, to whom we are indebted for permission to reproduce the portrait.

DEVIATION OF THE NASAL SEPTUM.

AN important stage in the history of operative procedures for the correction of deformities of the nasal septum has been reached. This will be seen from a study of the reports of the discussion upon the subject which took place in the laryngological section of the British Medical Association held in Toronto this year. Just as it has more than once occurred in the past, certain operations are becoming less popular, and other methods—one in particular, that of submucous resection—have been received with unbounded enthusiasm in many quarters.

That we have had many advisers in the past, and numerous operations, which bore a curious resemblance to one another although different operators' names were attached to them, everyone knows. The questions which now arise are interesting, and the hitherto perplexed student will ask, Are our difficulties at an end? Have we at last found a method which will please the majority? for of course no one expects to please that troublesome minority which has been the bugbear from all time in every branch of human activity. In other words, is there now a fairly unanimous opinion amongst those qualified to judge that submucous resection is the best operation? The discussion at Toronto will probably be regarded as historical, and while it has done much to clear the air and to define our present position, a careful study of the different