

Obituary

as inserting a soft sponge into the naso-pharynx, or packing the posterior choanæ, and by placing gauze round a Hewitt's airway in the mouth.

I need hardly add that packing should be done thoroughly, but gently, otherwise it causes soreness of the palate and damages the lining of the nose (possibly with adhesions as after-effects); moreover, fluids are not so well absorbed by close packing as when the material is inserted more loosely.—I am, etc., J. D. MORTIMER.

LONDON, 22nd October 1925.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR HENRI LUC (Paris)
(1855-1925).

WE cannot allow the grave to close over Henri Luc without trying to express something of what we, as laryngologists, feel that we owe to him.

Luc may be described as a man of great intelligence. With his forehead modelled à *la Verlaine* and with the clear eyes of the thinker, he impressed us strongly at first sight; the impression grew upon us as we talked with him, not only about medicine, but upon the many subjects which interested him, literature, art, and foreign languages, for the last of which he possessed a veritable *flair*.

At the very outset of his career, Luc was conscious of the limitations of our specialty, as it was then practised in France. For this reason he went to Vienna, in 1887, in order to study the more recent methods which were coming into notice in that city. On his return home, he adapted them to practice in France, giving to them, at the same time, the special touch of his original mind. It was then that he commenced to treat the local suppurative conditions by radical methods, which hitherto had scarcely been attempted.

In 1889, in conjunction with Dr Ruault, he founded the *Archives Internationales d'Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie*, a journal which he continued to direct till 1896. Its pages contained much original matter and an analysis of the most important articles published abroad. In this way he kept his colleagues in touch with the developments in the specialty. Amongst the most notable of his own writings, at this period of his career, was an article upon suppuration in the maxillary sinus, and a memoir on ozena of the trachea, an affection not previously described. In 1892, he published a treatise on laryngeal neuropathies, which very quickly went out of print.

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Luc was a frequent visitor at Medical Congresses, at which he took an active part. In 1890, he attended the International Congress of Laryngology in Berlin, and read a paper on the evolution of adenoid growths at different ages. In London, in 1895, he opened the discussion on the surgical treatment of affections of the nasal accessory sinuses, and four years later, he was again in England, by invitation, to discuss the indications for opening the mastoid cells. At the Meeting of the British Medical Association at Portsmouth in the same year, Luc demonstrated one of the first cases of spreading osteomyelitis of the cranial bones. He attended congresses both in Washington and in Boston, speaking at the former upon the surgical treatment of suppuration in the frontal sinus, and at Boston, upon a variety of subperiosteal mastoid abscess without suppuration in the bone. He made his last appearance in Great Britain at a scientific gathering, when he attended, in 1913, the International Medical Congress in London.

Dr Luc was one of the oldest members of the French Society of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, of which he was successively Vice-President and President. He was one of its most assiduous workers.

By his work he has contributed in a special degree to the surgical development of the specialty. He was an example of what can be accomplished by determination, combined with certain natural qualities. He created a department to which his own countrymen and foreigners came to complete their education in the specialty. His facility in speaking foreign languages was such that, at congresses abroad, the President has been known to remark: "I do not know whether to congratulate Dr Luc most on the form or on the substance of his speech." This particular gift attracted the foreigner to his clinic, because his knowledge of languages permitted Luc to explain to the assembled spectators, successively in four different tongues, the technique of his operation.

On the outbreak of war, he placed his organising powers at the disposal of the Government, and he assumed the heavy task of directing the oto-laryngological department of Val-de-Grâce. He received the rosette of Officier de la Légion d'Honneur; he had previously been a Chevalier of the same Order.

We shall continue to miss, even more than his great scientific worth, his affability, the welcome which he always gave us, and the courtesy with which he knew so well how to conduct a discussion.

JEAN GUISEZ.