

## OBITUARY

ÉTIENNE LOMBARD. (PARIS, 1869-1920)

(*A Translation*)

LOMBARD has died in Paris from a painful disease which, for two years, has prevented him from following his profession.

He began as assistant at the Lariboisière Hospital under Dr Gouguenheim and, on the death of the latter, he served under Professor Sebileau. In 1902, he obtained the title of "Oto-Rhino-Laryngologiste des Hôpitaux de Paris." This was a new creation, as the specialty had not previously been recognised officially in the Paris School, but Lombard's high reputation and his brilliant lectures at once gave prestige to the new title—indeed it might be said that he added more to it than the title bestowed on him.

Lombard continued to work at the Lariboisière Hospital for ten years. While there he familiarised himself with surgical technic, with which specialists were not so well acquainted twenty years ago as they are to-day. He designed some modifications in the mastoid operation, a new method of approaching the lateral sinus, and other improvements. Lombard's bone forceps are well known.

But as his talents leaned more to physics than to biology, he soon turned his attention to the pathology of the labyrinth, and in the latter part of his life he devoted most of his activities to the study of the internal ear.

His acoumetric researches led to the discovery of a very important symptom in labyrinthine deafness, commonly called "the symptom of the raised voice," or "Lombard's symptom." As a consequence of this, great assistance was given to the diagnosis of simulated deafness, and it is therefore in much use in medico-legal cases.

At the same time he occupied himself actively in the publication of the *Annales des Maladies de l'Oreille*, and from the year 1903 he was associated with Lannois, Lermoyez, and Sebileau in this monthly journal.

In 1911, Lombard was put in charge of a new service at the Hôpital Laënnec—a model clinic, from his own designs, which might well serve as a pattern in hospital equipment. There he worked with his faithful assistants, of whom no less than three, viz., Baldenweck, Lemée, and Moulouguet, afterwards obtained the title of "Oto-Rhino-Laryngologiste des Hôpitaux de Paris."

During the war the flying men furnished him with abundant material from amongst the "*blessés de l'air*." He made observations and researches on 600 aviators, and we were expecting from him

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a sensational discovery on dynamic equilibration when his fatal illness put an end to his career.

Death is hard for a worker when it strikes him down in the mid-course of his existence. In vain has he freely sown, in vain has he laboriously cultivated the field of his activity, if he reaps no harvest; for he never tastes the joys of a fruitful autumn nor the rest and calm of the winter which ends a happy life.

MARCEL LERMOVEZ.

RAYMOND VÉREL, O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S.E. (ABERDEEN).

By the death of Raymond Vérel, on 29th September 1920, the specialty in this country has lost one of its young, active, and most promising members. After graduating with honours at Edinburgh University in 1908, Vérel held several general hospital appointments, and also acted as clinical assistant to Dr Logan Turner for eighteen months. He decided to devote himself to the study of Diseases of the Ear and Throat. He proceeded to Vienna for further training, and finally settled in Aberdeen shortly before the outbreak of war. In the autumn of 1914 he effected a transference from the 1st Scottish General Hospital to the Scottish Horse Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, and served with his comrades at Suvla on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Though invalided home after a severe attack of dysentery, he again saw service in the Desert of Sinai and later in Egypt, where he was made consultant in his special branch. He served with distinction, and his work and skill were thoroughly appreciated by the numerous patients who passed through his hands. It was not until the summer of 1919 that Vérel was released from his military duties and was able to resume his practice in Aberdeen, where he was almost immediately appointed Aural Surgeon to the Dispensary and to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and Lecturer on Diseases of the Ear and Throat.

Unassuming and modest in his bearing, gentle in his handling of children, who seemed specially attracted to him, and possessing a sound knowledge of his subject, he readily gained the respect and confidence of his colleagues and patients. His skill as a manipulator was increased by the fact that he was ambidextrous, a valuable asset to the student of laryngology. To a man of Vérel's personality and professional ability, a successful career was assured. But it has been otherwise decreed, and the promise of these earlier years cannot now bear fruit.

“ They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old ;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.”

A. LOGAN TURNER.