

General Notes

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JAMES DUNDAS-GRANT.

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Section of Laryngology. The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, February 7th, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be a clinical one, but there will be a short communication by Mr. Maxwell Ellis on "The mechanism of the bronchial movements and the nasopulmonary reflex".

President: L. Colledge, F.R.C.S., 2 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Honorary Secretaries: F. C. Ormerod, F.R.C.S., 22 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.1, and W. A. Mill, M.S., 89 Harley Street, London, W.1.

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SIR FELIX SEMON

(1849-1921)

The Semon Lecture is printed on another page. As a matter of personal and historical interest we think it might interest those who come after to reproduce here the personal appreciation of Semon by one who came in frequent contact with him. Sir St Clair Thomson's introductory remarks were as follows:

"This lecture was founded in 1913, and during his lifetime, by the many friends, pupils and admirers of Sir Felix Semon. We laryngologists owe much to Semon. He came, an alien, to this country at a time when ours was the Cinderella of the specialities. Without any vested interest here from family, school or university, struggling with a foreign language which he only began to master after landing in England at the age of 26, he rose to be a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, to be on the staff of one of our largest teaching hospitals, to be Physician Extraordinary to the King, to have one of the largest practices in his

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department, and to be the accepted leader of laryngology in this country. Throughout his career he worked indefatigably to gain for our special line the recognition and status which it merits. This lecture is good evidence of his interest in British laryngology. It was at his own request that the money collected to mark, in some way, his retirement from practice, should be devoted to endowing this Lecture-ship. There was no association of specialists in diseases of the throat until Semon founded the Laryngological Society in 1893. At the end of its first year of existence there were seventy laryngologists in it. To-day, forty-two years later, its successor—the Section of Laryngology, of the Royal Society of Medicine—numbers 273 members.

Semon gave distinction to our work by his teaching and writings and, on the table, are the two octavo volumes of his collected works. They show that he had a rational and scientific mind and there could not have been selected a better motto than the one on his gravestone at Golders Green: *Monumentum ejus Incrementum Scientiae* ('His monument is the advance of Science').

Semon's artistic and social talents helped to increase for us the public recognition which we, in our devotion to study and clinic, are apt to neglect. His familiarity with French and German and his cosmopolitan tastes gave to British laryngology that international status which has since distinguished it.

Semon had an effervescent temperament. He was inclined to prove himself orthodox by apostolic blows and knocks. He was what is called in Scotland 'a bonnie fechter' and he heads the preface to his published works with these words in his own mother tongue: 'Leben heisst: ein Kämpfer sein.'

In these days, we recognize that the fighting instinct, unrestrained and misdirected, brings with it much chaos, but we need not hesitate to be happy warriors if the same energy is devoted to the struggle for the good, the beautiful, the true, remembering Semon's words: 'Life is calling to us: fight the good fight.'

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LOGAN TURNER PRIZE.

The subject for this prize is "Experimental work on the lymphatics of the nose, accessory sinuses and pharynx". Essays should be sent to the Editor of the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* by June 30th, 1938.

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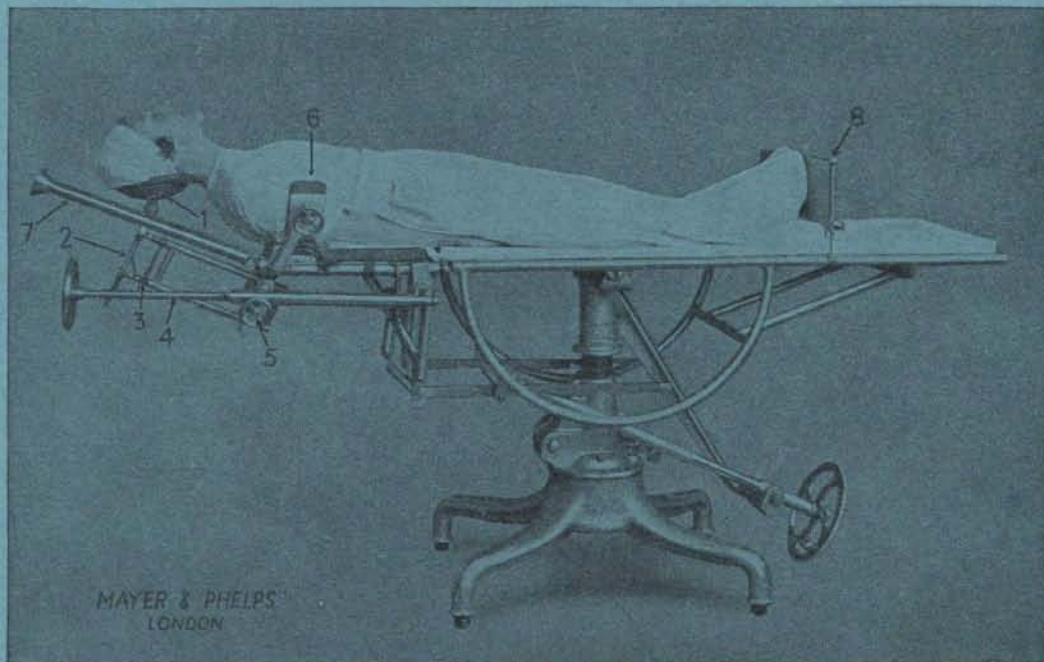
PROFESSOR F. LEMAÎTRE.

We note with pleasure that Professor Lemaître has been elected a Member of l'Académie de Médecine. This is a rare honour as the Academy is a very exclusive society. There are only a hundred members. Professor Sébileau is one, but he was elected as an Anatomist. Lermoyez, although a Laryngologist, owed his election to being a Médecin des Hôpitaux. Our colleague, Professor Lemaître is, therefore, the first and, so far, the only Oto-Laryngologist to be elected as such to this august body. In it he has succeeded to the Chair vacated by the late Professor Guéniot who died recently at the age of 104 years! We wish the new member the same length of days.

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