

Forensic Audiology

by

CHUANG WEI PING, LL.B.Hons.(Lond.), LL.M.(Lond.), M.A. Business Law (CNA), M.B., B.S.(Singapore), D.L.O.(Eng.), Barrister of Lincoln's Inn

Foreword

As Sir Roger Ormrod, a British Judge who first qualified as a doctor, pointed out (in 1972), the three professions, medicine, science and law, all share the same fundamental objective. This is the discovery or ascertainment of the truth to the greatest extent which their techniques permit and their functions require. It is therefore not surprising that a number of men and women have found an interest in all three professions.

In Otolaryngology, the name that springs to mind is that of von Trötsch (1829-1890). Before settling down in his selected speciality, he studied law in Erlangen, natural sciences in Munich and, finally, medicine in Wurzburg. It was von Trötsch who conceived and implemented the current method for the clinical examination of the ear, nose and throat, using light reflected from a concave mirror perforated in the centre.

Had von Trötsch lived in this day and age, it is likely that he would have become embroiled (this is perhaps the best term to use here) in the matter of occupational noise-induced hearing loss. This is the one medicolegal topic which more than any other has imposed itself on all those skill groups who have taken an interest in disorders of the ear. It is a subject which, unfortunately, is not well understood, either in its scientific or legal aspects, by Practitioners. Fortunately, Dr. Chuang, who like von Trötsch, is qualified both in law and in otolaryngology comes to our rescue. One has no doubt that Dr. Chuang's monograph will be read with advantage by all who take an interest in this topic.

R. Hinchcliffe, MD., Ph.D., FRCP.
Professor of Audiological Medicine,
University of London.