

as to fall asleep when walking. During sound sleep a convulsive closure of the glottis occurred, respiration being suspended for a minute, or a minute and a half, and cyanosis becoming very marked. These attacks came on at short intervals, both by day and by night, and were accompanied by marked salivation. The symptoms were referred to excess of poisonous extractives, leucomaines or ptomaines, in the blood, for the existence of such bodies having narcotics, convulsant, and salivating actions, has been demonstrated. Under treatment by naphthalin, iodoform, and charcoal, the asphyxial symptoms and the salivation entirely subsided, and the drowsiness greatly decreased.

A discussion followed, in which reference was made by a few members to several somewhat similar cases.

Hunter Mackenzie.

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## Obituary.

### RUDOLF VOLTOLINI.

THE science of laryngology sustained a grave and irreparable loss on the 11th of September. After a short illness, our honoured countryman Rudolf Voltolini passed away in his seventy-first year. One of the pioneers of the modern science of laryngology and rhinology, he prosecuted this work up to the last days of his existence, with juvenile zeal. Born on the 17th January, 1819, at Elsterweda, he studied from 1838-44 at Breslau and Berlin, practised as a physician in Berlin, Gross-strelitz and Lanenberg, and in 1852 became "Kreisphysicus" in Falkenberg, in Ober Schlesien. In 1860 he was *privat docent* at Breslau, and was appointed professor of laryngology and rhinology in 1868. For twenty-one years he has remained at this post an ornament to the professoriate.

Voltolini was one of the first to acknowledge the great merit of the newly discovered methods of examination of the nasal cavities and of the larynx. Anterior rhinoscopy as a scientific method must indeed be regarded as his own creation. He was the first to apply Middeldorpf's galvano-cautery to the treatment of diseases of the upper respiratory passages. He facilitated its application by the invention of many instruments. Voltolini's speculum, and afterwards his palate hook, gave to many the means of making important discoveries, and his "sponge method" facilitated operations upon laryngeal neoplasms. Up to the last, he was occupied in practising and perfecting many other methods of treatment which will bear his name, and the value of which will be proved by others. One of these is the reproduction of Czermak's method of illumination with the new Edison's incandescent lamp, which will facilitate the diagnosis of diseases of the antrum of Highmore, and will be of value in the differential diagnosis of benign and malignant neoplasms. Another method advocated by him is that of electrolysis, which would seem likely to supersede other methods for the treatment

of retro-pharyngeal tumours if further experience confirms the great advantages set forth by him.

Voltolini published a great many short papers in various medical journals, specially contributing to the pages of the *Breslauer Aertzliche Zeitschrift* and the *Monatsschrift für Ohrenheilkunde, Laryngologie und Rhinologie*, which he, along with Weber Liel, and other specialists, founded in 1867, and of which he remained collaborator up to his death.

He also published the following books :—

“Rhinoscopie und Pharyngoscopie.” Jubiläumsschrift der Universität Breslau im Jahr., 1861.

“Die Galvanokaustik und deren Anwendung bei Kehlkopfleiden,” 1876.

“Die Rhinoscopie und Pharyngoscopie,” im Jahr., 1879.

“Die Krankheiten der Nase, und des Nasenrachenraums,” 1888 (his last great work, which was reviewed in this Journal).”

Original and philosophical in form, and fertile in ideas, his works will always remain interesting and learned guides to the physician, landmarks of the progress of our special science, and for their author “*monumenta aere perennius.*”

Michael.

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## ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

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### Sixty-Second Congress of German Physicians and Naturalists,

*Held at Heidelberg, September 17—23, 1889.*

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#### SECTION OF LARYNGOLOGY AND RHINOLOGY.

THE PRESIDENT of the Section (Dr. JURASZ, of Heidelberg), referring to the lamented death of Professor VOLTOLINI, proposed that the event should be marked by all members rising; after which a telegram of condolence was forwarded to the members of the late Professor Voltolini's family by the assembled meeting.

A paper was read upon *Rhinological and Laryngological Operations in the Cocaine Era* by Prof. B. FRAENKEL, of Berlin.—Referring to the customary doses of cocaine, as employed for operations about the nose (10 to 15 per cent.) and larynx (20 per cent.), the author fixed the maximum dose at 0.1 gramme. Cases of intoxication occur probably due to idiosyncrasy, but a fatal case of poisoning has never been described in rhino-laryngological practice.

Dr. AHRNSOHN (Ems) once applied a dose of 0.8 gramme of cocaine for an operation for a laryngeal polypus, without producing any baneful result.

Dr. MORITZ SCHMIDT (Frankfort) thought the toxic phenomena of cocaine administration were due to the bad quality of the drug as well as individual idiosyncrasy. Having observed intoxication from the use of cocaine in solution, he now always employs it in powder (one part of cocaine to five of sugar), in which form smaller quantities produce anaesthesia.

Dr. HEYMANN (Berlin) had seen many cases of cocaine intoxication and was of opinion that it was difficult to estimate the quantity of cocaine employed, one portion remaining in the instrument and some portion of it reaching the stomach.