

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,
1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Laryngology.—*President*, W. H. Kelson, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*, Philip Franklin, F.R.C.S., 27 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, and Norman Patterson, F.R.C.S., 16 Devonshire Place, London, W. 1.

The Opening Meeting of the Session 1925-26 will be held on Friday, 6th November, at 5 P.M. Communications regarding patients and specimens along with a short précis of notes must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr Philip Franklin, at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

Section of Otology.—*President*, G. J. Jenkins, F.R.C.S. *Hon. Secretaries*, F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., 14 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1, and T. B. Layton, D.S.O., M.S., 10 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1.

The Opening Meeting of the Session 1925-26 will be held on Saturday, 7th November, at 10.30 A.M. Communications regarding patients and specimens along with a short précis of notes must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

During the Session 1925-26 the Sections will meet on the following dates:—

Section of Laryngology, on Friday, 6th November, 4th December, 5th February, 5th March, 2 April, 7th May (*Annual*), and 4th June.

Section of Otology, on Saturday, 7th November, 5th December, 6th February, 6th March, 8th May (*Annual*), and 5th June.

Among the subjects selected for special discussion during the forthcoming Session, which are of special interest to members of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology, are:—

1. Focal Sepsis as a Factor in Disease; to be discussed by the whole Society.

2. The Diagnosis and Treatment of Intra-thoracic New Growths; to be discussed by the Sections of Medicine, Electro-Therapeutics, Surgery, and Laryngology.

The dates of these meetings will be announced in a future number of the *Journal*.

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THE SEMON LECTURE, 1925.

Dr Patrick Watson-Williams, Bristol, has been invited by the Semon Lecture Board to give the Semon Lecture, University of London. The address, which is entitled "The Toll of Chronic Nasal Focal Sepsis on Body and Mind" will be delivered in the Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, on the afternoon of Thursday, 5th November, at 5 o'clock.

General Notes

CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE AND EAR HOSPITAL.

The Opening Lecture of the Winter Session 1925-26 will be delivered by Dr William G. Hill, Consulting Surgeon for Diseases of the Throat and Ear, St Mary's Hospital, on Tuesday, 6th October, at 4 P.M., at the Central London Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C. 1. The Lecture is entitled, "Practice at the Central Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital in the late 'Eighties; a period of marked advance foreshadowing many modern improvements in technic."

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CONGRÈS FRANÇAIS D'OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGIE.

The Annual Session of the French Society of Otolaryngology, Rhinology, and Laryngology will be held at the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, from the 14th to the 17th October, under the Presidency of Dr Brindel of Bordeaux.

The following two Discussions appear upon the Programme:—

1. *Otitis latentes chez l'enfant.* Rapporteurs; MM. le Mée, André Bloch, Cazejust.
2. *Syndrome du Ganglion Sphéno-palatine.* Rapporteur; M. Halphen.

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RUMANIAN CONGRESS OF OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGY.

The Fourth Rumanian Congress of Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Laryngology will be held at Bucharest, on the 25th and 26th October, under the Presidency of Professor A. Costina. The following subjects will be discussed: Ozæna, by Professors Pélinoff and Rion and Dr Tempea: Rhinoplasty, by Dr Jianu: The Treatment of Cancer of the Larynx, by Dr Nasta and Dr Bernea.

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"WHY DID HARVEY DISCOVER THE CIRCULATION?"

At the recent meeting of the Edinburgh Harveian Society, the President, Dr P. M'Bride, delivered the Annual Oration, taking as the title of his address, "Why did Harvey Discover the Circulation?"

The orator proceeded to show (1) that the times were ripe for the great discovery, and (2) that owing to Harvey's particular qualities he was able to publish his work when he did. Reviewing the trend of the studies of men from the earliest ages, the lecturer arrived at the conclusion that, up to the time when Harvey lived, the tendency had been to attach more importance to the subjective than the objective. Information which could be derived from introspection was more appreciated than that to be obtained by accurate observation.

Harvey lived and worked at a time when the world was becoming more ready for new discoveries and prepared to accept them without attacking and persecuting the discoverer. The period of hostility to experimental investigation had begun to relax, and a few original minds were already prepared to undertake research and discover truth. Moreover, the question of the circulation was then being discussed. Servetus had already given

General Notes

a fairly accurate account of the pulmonary circulation, and Caesalpinus had formed a very correct opinion as to both the pulmonary and systemic circulation. Harvey lived, therefore, at a time when a bold, determined man might risk the publication of a startling scientific novelty.

He possessed the zeal of an inquirer. He sought knowledge by observation and experiment. Adopting animal experiments as the best means to assist him, he proved himself ready to face the risks he ran from the superstition and ignorance of his time. Powerful in intellect, he was able to cast aside the bonds which tended to keep thinkers of his age in the rut of metaphysical inquiry. Endowed with a logical mind, possessing independence and courage, the judgment which enabled him to demonstrate his thesis, and with an insatiable thirst for knowledge, he was gifted with the many attributes which made him—and not another—the discoverer of the circulation.

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ON THE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING SEVERAL DRAFTS IN THE PREPARATION OF PAPERS FOR PUBLICATION.

Our attention has been recently drawn to the importance of this subject on reading, in more than one of our contemporaries, an excerpt from the writings of the late Anatole France, in which he expresses his views on the care which an author should take in the preparation of his paper for publication.

Seven drafts, he considers, are essential, with an eighth to make sure that the corrections on the seventh are understood. In the first draft, France sought to enliven what had been platitudinous. In the second, he weeded out the dandelions, “the whos, the whichs, and the whoms.” In the third, he eliminated the semicolons, shortened the sentences and struck out phrases which merely linked one sentence with another or connected one thought to another, a task which should be left to the reader. In the fourth draft, he gave special attention to the order of the sentences and to the repetition of the same word; he looked upon the recurrence of a word as a warning to rewrite the sentence, and not merely to search for a synonym. In the fifth draft, the adjectives disappeared, for, like Voltaire, he held the opinion that although the adjective might agree with the substantive in gender, number, and case, very often it was not suitable. From the sixth draft, he chipped away what he called the pastry, all that was adventitious and redundant; and over the seventh, he passed the plane, because he considered that a good writer, like a good cabinet-maker, should plane his phrases smooth.

Opinions may differ as to the number of drafts which may be regarded as really essential in writing a paper, but the majority of editors will doubtless agree that more care should be exercised by writers in the preparation of manuscript destined for publication.

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SAMPLES AND FULLEST PARTICULARS ON APPLICATION

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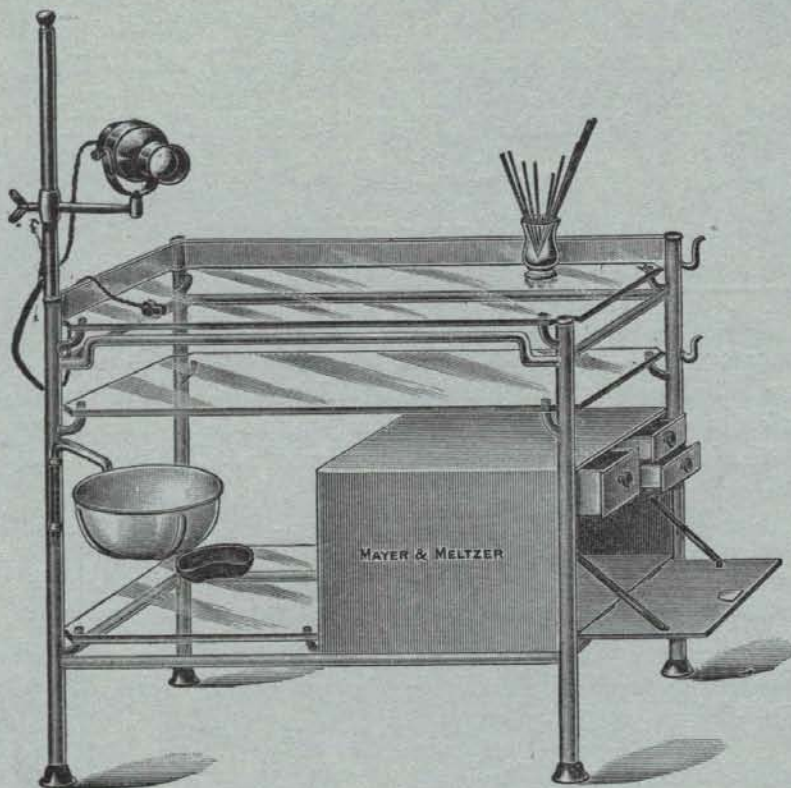
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Full particulars will be found on page 154 of our *Catalogue of Instruments used in the Practice of Laryngology, Rhinology, and Otology*, a new edition of which has just been published.

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