

General Notes

GENERAL NOTES

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

Section of Laryngology—President, Mr H. J. Banks-Davis, M.B., F.R.C.P.—Hon. Secretaries, Mr J. F. O'Malley, F.R.C.S., and Mr E. D. D. Davis, F.R.C.S.

The first Meeting of the Section, Session 1923-24, will be held on Friday, 2nd November, at 4.45 P.M. Members who are desirous of showing patients or specimens should give notice of the same to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr J. F. O'Malley, 6 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, at least twelve days before the Meeting.

Section of Otology—President, Mr Sydney Scott, M.S. Hon. Secretaries, Mr Archer Ryland, F.R.C.S.(Ed.), and Mr T. H. Just, F.R.C.S.

The first Meeting of the Section, Session 1923-24, will be held on Saturday, 3rd November, at 10 A.M. Members who are desirous of showing patients or specimens should give notice of the same to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr Archer Ryland, 50 Harley Street, London, W. 1, at least twelve days before the date of the Meeting.

The attention of Members of the Section of Otology is drawn to the change in the dates of the Meetings of the Section during the ensuing Session. They will no longer be held, as formerly, on the third Friday of the month, but on the first Saturday of the month, on the day following the Meeting of the Section of Laryngology. The hour of the Meeting has been fixed at 10 A.M.

A Conjoint Summer Meeting of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology will be held in London, on Friday and Saturday, 27th and 28th June 1924.

During the Session 1923-24, certain subjects of general interest have been selected for debate by the various Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine. On Friday, 7th December, at 8.30 P.M. the Sections of Anæsthetics, Laryngology, Otology, Odontology, Ophthalmology, and Surgery will discuss "The Comparative Value of Cocaine Substitutes."

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THE SEMON LECTURE, 1923.

Dr A. Logan Turner, Edinburgh, has been invited by the Semon Lecture Board to give the Semon Lecture, University of London. The Address, entitled "The Advancement of Laryngology and Otology: A Plea for Adequate Training and Closer Co-operative Action," will be delivered in the Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, on the afternoon of Thursday, 1st November, at 5 o'clock.

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At the Meeting of the Eleventh International Physiological Congress, held in Edinburgh from 23rd to 27th July, under the presidency of Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, Professor Magnus of Utrecht demonstrated the postural reflexes due to the labyrinth and mid-brain; and he showed how the balancing and righting reactions can be analysed into a series of simple reflexes in guinea-pigs and rabbits from whom the cerebrum has been removed.

General Notes

DIPLOMA IN LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY. (D.L.O.R.C.P. & S. Eng.).

In our previous issue we published the Regulations of the new Diploma in Laryngology and Otolgy recently drawn up by the Management of the Examining Board of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England. We again draw our readers' attention to the subject.

It had long been felt by those interested in maintaining a high standard of work in laryngology and otology, that such of the School Medical Officers, and others, whose chief duties lay in dealing with the diseases of the ear, nose, and throat, should receive some "hall-mark" or certificate, which would ensure that they had received, at least, a sufficient amount of training to fit them for the efficient discharge of their responsibilities. Hitherto, in many cases, the only qualification which seemed to be necessary was the ability of the medical officer to remove adenoids and tonsils.

With the establishment of a Ministry of Health and a consequent increase in the activities directed towards the preventive treatment of disease, the necessity of ensuring adequate preliminary training for these officers has become more clamant. Steps were taken, therefore, to provide the means of obtaining the necessary qualification.

In all probability, it will become obligatory for those candidates seeking appointments under the Ministry or the Educational Authority, in which diseases of the ear, nose, and throat will constitute a large proportion of their duties, to obtain the above Diploma before they are eligible for election. No fault can reasonably be found for insisting upon this. The public will benefit from the trained services of the officials, and the science and art of laryngology and otology will gain additional prestige.

The regulations have been drawn up in such a way as to ensure that the successful candidates have procured a practical knowledge of the more common diseases. The examination for the Diploma is, in no sense, of the nature of an Honours Examination, nor has it been designed with the object of creating "specialists."

We feel that those members of the Councils of the Sections of Laryngology and Otolgy of the Royal Society of Medicine, who have worked persistently to bring about this desirable result, deserve due praise for the successful issue of their labours, while the Conjoint Board is to be congratulated on the step which it has taken to put it into effect.

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POST-GRADUATE TEACHING AT THE CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE, AND EAR HOSPITAL.

Under the auspices of the Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association, the Staff of the Central London Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, have prepared a very full course of instruction covering the period October 8th to 26th inclusive. The prospective programme of work includes not only clinical instruction in the Wards and in the Out-patient Department, but Surgical Anatomy and Operative Surgery classes. The programme has been so arranged that those wishing to take full advantage of it will be able to devote the whole of each day to the study of the speciality.

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The Secretary to the Fellowship, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, will be pleased to give further information as to the course, and to receive the names of those desiring to attend it.

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BRAIN ABSCESS.

We publish, in this number, the Proceedings of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine of 18th May, and those of the Scottish Society of Otology and Laryngology of 9th June, and it is interesting to observe that two similar topics held the attention of the members at both Sessions. We refer to the post-operative drainage of brain abscess and the occurrence of epileptiform seizures subsequent to operation upon temporo-sphenoidal abscess. The first is an old-standing subject, and it is evident that there is still no royal road to recovery through any single method. To judge from the remarks of those members who took part in the discussion, there is considerable variation in the means adopted for securing satisfactory drainage; the old rubber tube, corrugated rubber tissue, rubber dam, gauze strips, irrigation and suction, and the removal of a portion of the wall of the abscess, were mentioned by various speakers as suitable agents for the purpose: *quot homines, tot sententiæ!*

At each Meeting, a case was shown in which Jacksonian fits had developed after operation for the relief of temporo-sphenoidal abscess, in one patient, two, in the other, six years after treatment; and other cases of a somewhat similar nature were referred to. Both these topics would undoubtedly furnish interesting material for a collective investigation and discussion.

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A HINT TO THE RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

"Why do not doctors take more often to literature? They have not much time, it is true, but they do get some time for recreation, and the temptation to write fiction, if they have any turn at all for letters, must be, one would have thought, enormous. Secrecy is a point of honour with every decent doctor, and the medical profession *en masse* uphold that honour to admiration. But how often they must long to tell all they know! In fiction they would find a perfect outlet. Yet how few, even among retired doctors, and many of them can afford to retire very early, devote their leisure to their pens! They are highly educated men, but they do not share the desire of the other learned professions to confide in paper. Hundreds of men of letters begin as barristers, and a good many as clerks, schoolmasters, and parsons, yet none of these have such facilities for studying human nature as the doctor possesses. Perhaps the training has something to do with it."—*The Spectator*, 30th August.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

A suggestion has been made that it might prove useful to our readers if an opportunity was afforded them, through the pages of the *Journal*, of asking for information regarding points of doubt or difficulty, which may, from time to time, arise in connection with their work.

It is proposed, therefore, to open a correspondence column, under the above title, and to take the necessary steps to supply the information that may be desired.

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EXTRACTS FROM PRESS NOTICES

"Should prove extremely useful to those who are engaged in teaching the anatomy and surgery of the ear, while the album of photographs with catalogue and guide should be a valuable source of reference to the surgeon."—*The Journal of Laryngology and Otology*.

"The photographs and slides are of excellent workmanship, and should prove of the utmost utility for teachers of anatomy and aural surgery."—*The Lancet*.

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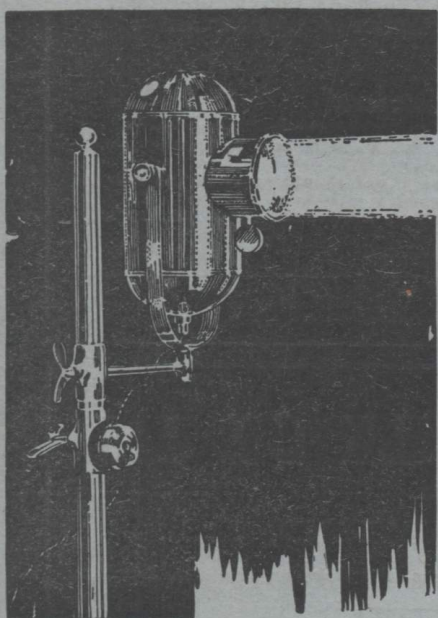
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