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THE LATE PROFESSOR BEZOLD.

For many years the name of Friedrich Bezold has been familiar to our readers as a more than ordinarily indefatigable worker and as a highly original and authoritative experimenter and thinker in the realm of otology. He died on October 6 last of carcinoma of the stomach, having been born in the year 1842. After passing his examinations he devoted a good deal of time to the study of the eye, until Virchow induced him to devote himself to otology, and he joined the University of Munich in 1877. Nine years later he was made Extraordinary Professor, and in 1906 he received the title and rank of Full Professor. He was, of course, an honorary member of numerous otological societies in various parts of the world. According to Professor Scheibe his works amounted to ninety-one in number, among them the very important one known to many of our readers as his "Ueberschau über den Gegenwärtigen Stand der Ohrenheilkunde," which was published in 1895, and which consists of a valuable set of statistics of diseases of the ear, with many important deductions derived from them.

He was among the first to study the "corrosion" anatomy of the cavities of the middle ear, and he, perhaps more than any other, established the generalisation in the physiology of the ear that the tympanic mechanism exists mainly for the conveyance of the deeper tones. His name is associated in particular with three land-marks in otology: "Bezold's triad" of functional signs characteristic of oto-sclerosis, "Bezold's mastoiditis," and "Bezold's

continuous tone-series," which are almost as familiar as "Politzer's method" of inflation. The continuous tone-series led to investigations which have entitled Professor Bezold to a place among the great benefactors of the human race, namely, his indefatigable examination into the residuum of hearing-power present in "deaf-mutes." Owing to this line of study many have learned to converse with their fellows by the ordinary means of communication instead of being condemned to the use of signs and finger-alphabets. His "Text-book of Otology," issued so recently as 1906, and translated into English by Holinger in 1908, contains, in very moderate space, the outcome of his long investigations in relation to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ear.

Professor Bezold was obviously of a nervous temperament, and it is recorded of him that he was so diffident as to his capacity for teaching that he hesitated long before deciding to seek appointment as an instructor in the University. He lost his father when very young, and was therefore brought up and mainly educated by his mother, with the not unusual results of such training. Thus we find an almost pathological amount of industry as the expression of a morbidly conscientious desire to counteract such mediocrity as that with which he credited himself. His work, though no doubt a labour of love, was nevertheless without doubt a labour, and the earnest expression of his features could not fail to convey to the observer the strain under which his enormous work was carried on. The world owes a great deal to the owners of the nervous temperament, and the otologist's indebtedness to Professor Bezold is indeed enormous.

Sympathetic and comprehensive obituary notices of the illustrious deceased are to be found in the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift*, December 24, 1908 (No. 52), and the *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, November 3, 1908 (No. 44), by the well-known aurists, his distinguished pupils, Professor Scheibe, of Munich, and Professor Denker, of Erlangen, respectively.

BAUER'S METHOD OF SEROLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF SYPHILIS.

IN view of the questions with regard to Bauer's method of serological diagnosis raised in the discussion on syphilis especially affecting the upper air-passages in the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, the following translation of the description of this method, as given by the author in No. 16 of the