

Obituary.

EUGEN BAUMAIN.

EUGEN BAUMAIN died in his fiftieth year. He was Professor of Physiological Chemistry at the University of Freiburg (Baden). General medicine owes to him the discovery of the widely employed hypnotics sulfonal and trional, and the effectual anodyne phenacetin. But also our speciality will honour his name for a discovery made by him in the last year of his life. Baumain showed that we had not yet known all the elements in the human body. He has proved iodine, in the form of hyro-iodine, is as necessary in the thyroid gland as iron in the blood. This development is equally important for pathology as well as for physiology; also for treating the diseases caused by abnormalities of the thyroid gland, myxœdema, cretinism, and Basedow's disease. His name will be joined with the history of medicine for ever. *Michael.*

GEORG RICHARD LEWIN.

A sudden death terminated the life of one of the pioneers of our science. GEORG LEWIN died of apoplexy on the 1st November, 1896. It was the end of a life full of labour. Many branches of medical science have been enriched through his great skill and energy. Born 1820, in Sondershausen, he graduated in 1841 as a physician in Berlin. In the first years of his practice he published valuable work on forensic medicine. In 1863 he was elected as successor of Bacrensprung in dermatological and syphilodological clinic, and held this clinic until 1884, when he resigned the dermatology. On this occasion he was honoured with the title Geheimrath. Only a short time before his death he resigned this also, but he did not long enjoy his "otium cum dignitate." His numerous publications on syphilis and skin diseases we will not mention here, for neither toxicologie nor syphilitic publications would grant him a place in the history of laryngology. But he was one of the first who studied laryngology—the same year as Victor von Bruns—he attempted intralaryngeal operations for neoplasms. He improved the illuminating apparatus by application of lenses. His standard work is "Inhalations Therapy," the first volume of the "Klinik der Kehlkopfkrankheiten" (Berlin, 1865). It is to be regretted that pressure of other work did not allow the author to continue this. This one volume contains numerous new observations, which prove so careful a treatment of the subject that it will be for ever a fountain of learning for specialists. We find here the description of atrophy of the lingual tonsil in cases of syphilis, the relation of nervous disturbances caused by hypertrophy and varices of the lingual tonsil, which for long years remained unnoticed, and only in the last time have found their well-merited confirmation and acceptance by new observers, and by himself and Heller in his last publication in 1895 on this remarkable post-syphilitical symptom. *Michael.*

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