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THE LATE PROFESSOR DELSTANCHE.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

DEATH has removed from the otological world one of its most illustrious and amiable figures. We regret to have to announce that Dr. Charles Delstanche passed away at Brussels on the 27th day of January of the present year.

He was the second son of Dr. Felix Delstanche, the first otologist in Belgium, and was born at Brussels in 1840. His medical studies were carried out at the Flemish College at Bologna (Italy), between the years 1857 and 1863. He became physician to the poor of Brussels in 1865, and exhibited the greatest devotion in the prosecution of his labours during the terrible epidemic of cholera in 1866, when he was medical officer for the district Rue Haute, in Brussels, the poorest and least sanitary of all the parts of the town.

In 1870 he was made a member of the Royal Society of Medical Sciences, and in 1871 started the first special clinic for diseases of the ear and nose in the hospital for poor children. During the Franco-German War he served in the Belgian Red-Cross Ambulance, after which he became physician to the Belgian Life-Saving Society.

He wrote a brilliant thesis on tinnitus aurium, and became an *agrégé* of the University of Brussels in 1872. Three years later he opened the first otological department in the Hôpital St. Jean, and he acted as its senior medical officer.

Among other honours, he received the membership of the Royal Academy of Madrid in 1879, of the Royal Academy of Florence in 1889, and of the Royal Academy of Belgium in 1892. He was invested as a Knight of the Order of Leopold in 1896, and was President of the Otological Congress at Brussels in 1888.

It was the intention of his confrères to have a fête in his honour on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his hospital services, next Easter; but this intention has, unfortunately, been frustrated by his decease.

He published a considerable number of clinical reports and short articles in various Belgian and other periodicals, but among the most important were his thesis on "*Noises in the Ear*," two *Series of Descriptions of Instruments*, and a paper on "*The Use of Liquid Vaseline in the Treatment of Sclerosis of the Middle Ear*." Among his many additions to our instrumentarium, the best known are his *rarefacteur* and *masseur* for the membrane and ossicles, his ingenious cutting ring for the extraction of the malleus, and his modification of Gottstein's knife for the removal of adenoids. His ingenuity was inexhaustible, and it was a great disappointment to those who knew him and his talents in this respect to note his absence at the sixth Otological Congress. It was, however, a source of gratification to them to offer him their testimony as to the value to the suffering deaf of his numerous othotherapeutical inventions by unanimously expressing their cordial approval of the action of the committee, who awarded to him the "Lenval" prize.

He married in 1868 the daughter of the celebrated Italian painter Jean Baptiste Madou. Among the members of his family, the visitors to the late International Otological Congress will well remember his accomplished son, Dr. Ernest Delstanche, and his charming daughter.

The illness to which he at last succumbed had been of considerable duration, and, in point of fact, for the last four years his health had been steadily going down, although it was only during the last few months that it did so with any great degree of rapidity.

He was a regular attendant at International Congresses, where his geniality and straightforwardness made him extremely popular among his confrères.