

THE
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,
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RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR POLITZER.

PROFESSOR ADAM POLITZER retired from his official position in connection with the University of Vienna on October 1, 1907, after forty-seven years of activity.

In the presence of a most distinguished gathering, which included many of his past assistants, he was the recipient of numerous addresses conveying the expression of the esteem and goodwill of the speakers and signatories. He replied in a happy and impressive way, and in his farewell speech conveyed much important advice, and expressed some views well worthy of consideration.

He strongly insisted on the importance of the study of the pathology of the ear, and expressed his indebtedness to the Burgomaster, Dr. Seiler, and the municipal authorities, who had in the most broadminded way placed the valuable resources of the public infirmary at his disposal for the advancement of his special branch of medical science. For thirty years he profited by this so as to investigate clinically and autoptically many forms of disease for which the hospitals afford little available material. Among these he includes adhesive processes in the middle ear, cholesteatoma and oto-sclerosis. It was with regret that he informed us that the Vienna infirmaries are now shut so far as the advancement in science is concerned. He pleaded for a return to the large-minded

policy of the earlier rulers. Professor Politzer considers that during the period which he has lived through otology has made more progress than almost any special branch of medical science. The influence of the development of bacteriology had in his opinion been enormous.

While recognising the great amount of work that had been done he referred to much that remained to be accomplished, and dwelt on the gaps still remaining in our knowledge of the pathology and diagnosis of diseases of the labyrinth and the cerebral disturbances of hearing. What a triumph it would be for science, he continued, if we could find out the cause of oto-sclerosis and check its evolution.

He attributed the frequency of the complications of ear disease to the miserable conditions of life among the poor, and called on the municipal authorities to clear away the numerous hot-beds of infectious disease and provide better housing for the impoverished classes. He exhorted his younger followers to a whole-hearted devotion to their branch of science and to a firm hold to truth and reality, avoiding the slippery paths of hypothesis. As a practical factor in the production of scientific work he advocated a strict and purposive distribution of time, not omitting a period for the study and enjoyment of those classical literary and artistic works which have such a beneficial effect on the mind of the scientific investigator. Above all he recommended the Horatian *equus animus* throughout all the stages of life.

To those who have periodically had the pleasure of meeting Professor Politzer it will be inconceivable that he has reached the "age-limit" in any except the official sense, and they will wish him a long continuance of that bodily and mental vigour which they have so much envied and admired.

ABNORMAL PULSATING VESSELS IN THE PHARYNX.

BY JAMES GALBRAITH CONNAL, M.B., F.F.P.S.G.,

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THE abnormal distribution of vessels in the pharynx and nasopharynx is a subject of practical importance to the general surgeon, and more especially to the rhinologist and laryngologist.

At a recent meeting of the Glasgow Medico-Chirurgical Society I showed a series of nine cases and read notes of three others