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GERMAN OTOLOGICAL AND LARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

THOSE who have at all frequently to look up the literature of any given subject in connection with our special branches must have been struck by the remarkable number of references to the "Verhandlungen" of the "Deutsche Otologische Gesellschaft" and of the "Verein Sud-deutscher Laryngologen." Both of these important associations are still true to their scientific traditions, and the programmes of their recent meetings at Heidelberg have been marked as usual by novelty, interest and labour.

A new era has been started in the history of the second of these unions, the "Verein Sud-deutscher Laryngologen." viz., an important amalgamation with the "Deutsche Laryngologische Gesellschaft." The South German Society started its brilliant career in 1894 with a membership of 49 and has held meetings each year with increasing success, the number of members in 1907 amounting to 210, and including the names of many of the best non-specialists from towns well beyond the limit of Southern Germany; in point of fact, it could be looked upon as a highly representative pan-Germanic Association, in which the laryngologists from all parts of Germany could not but desire to be enrolled. It was at first proposed that a more extensive Society, the Deutscher Laryngologischen Gesellschaft, should be formed and draw it within its folds, but this idea was not universally accepted by the South Germans, who desired to retain some trace at least of the identity of the Society of whose success they were justly so proud. Owing, however, to the general feeling of good

will and to the judicious diplomacy of Professor Fraenkel, a *modus vivendi* has happily been arranged, and for the future the great Society will exist under the name, neither of the "Deutsche Otologische Gesellschaft" nor of the "Verein Sud-deutsche Laryngologen," but of the "Verein Deutscher Laryngologen." This happy amalgamation, which is quite in consonance with the spirit pervading the scientific societies in our own island, is of the happiest augury for our speciality. It may be mentioned that foreigners are not excluded from the membership, and there could be no better means of hastening international *entente* than by the reception of foreign members in scientific societies. We may well remember that if politics divides, science unites.

Among the more interesting incidents of the meeting of the German Otological Society was the discussion on the conservative treatment of chronic suppuration of the middle ear, introduced by Professor Körner, of Rostock. This paper, as also the general trend of the subsequent discussion, indicated a tendency to increasing conservatism in regard to these diseases. Another was a demonstration of the results of experimental injury of the labyrinth produced by prolonged exposure to sounds of different pitch, brought forward by Professor Siebenmann, of Basle, along with Dr. Joshii. It was extremely remarkable how exactly the pitch of the sounds appeared to determine the portion of the cochlea which suffered, the high-pitched sounds producing a lesion of the basilar portion, the low-pitched sounds of the apical. We hope to place the details of these experiments before our readers, but the mere facts as they stand would seem to offer powerful confirmation of the views advanced by Helmholtz. Our next issue will contain abstracts of the papers, but some we hope to reproduce in full. In the meantime, our present number contains a short account of Dr. Bárány's method of testing complete unilateral deafness, a problem which has been solved in part, and only with considerable difficulty, up to the present by Professor Bezold. If the reliability of Dr. Bárány's method is confirmed, as we venture to expect, most probably a great step will have been made.

The programme of the Laryngological Society included a paper by Professor Killian on "The Affections of the Accessory Cavities of the Nose in Scarlet Fever," a subject to which too little attention has hitherto been directed. Among others we may note the description of some of the more exceptional diseases, such as certain nasopharyngeal tumours of tuberculous and pseudo-leukæmic nature, described by Dr. Nager, and a leukæmic growth in the larynx by Dr. Meyer. The work of both these associations is well worth our study.