

Obituary

which still further obscures the issue. Two excellent chapters are those on specific diagnosis and treatment. The author's description of his methods is clear, and by following his advice it appears that the very elaborate tests with solutions can be considerably simplified. As one would expect, the results of treatment are much more satisfactory in hay fever where the causal agent, though pleomorphic, is always the same (pollen), than they are in asthma or gastro-intestinal allergy.

The author draws attention to the use of the drug ephedrin in the treatment of the various reactions, but from his short note we feel that its action requires further investigation by the experimental pharmacologist.

The bibliography extends to 33 pages.

MARGARET TOD.

OBITUARY

LOUIS HEMINGTON PEGLER, M.D. (Edin.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Consulting Surgeon, Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital,
Fitzroy Square, London.

WE greatly regret to record the death, after a short illness, of Dr Hemington Pegler, at the age of 75, one of the older school and pioneers of laryngology and otology.

Born in 1852, he was the third son of Daniel Pegler, Esq. of Colchester, musical composer and pianist. Young Pegler was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, and University College, London, receiving his medical training at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1878, the following year receiving the diploma of M.R.C.S. (Eng.), and in 1885 the degree of M.D. (Edin.).

In 1880 he settled down in general practice at Alfreton, Derbyshire, entering upon a ten years' service with the Clay Cross Company, who had as part of their equipment a hospital, of which he was in charge. During those early years it was evident that he was specially interested in diseases of the throat, nose and ear, for he always kept these subjects well in front, with a view to devoting later his whole time to them.

On retiring from this appointment, in 1892, he came to London, and commenced the study of laryngology and otology, assisting Dr William Hill for two years in the Otological Department of St Mary's Hospital, and becoming, in 1893, a member of the Laryngological Society of London (during 1904 to 1905 acting as a member of the Council).

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During 1893 to 1905, he was appointed Registrar and Pathologist to the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road.

For three years (1893 to 1896) he acted as Hon. Secretary of the British Laryngological and Otological Association, and in 1895 organised its International Meeting. In 1896, he became Surgeon to the Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Fitzroy Square, remaining on the active staff until 1921, when, as Senior Surgeon, he retired as Consultant.

It is interesting to trace Pegler's earlier association with this hospital, which he loved so well, and to which he gave his time so freely. Walking one afternoon down Grafton Street, Tottenham Court Road, he came across a shabby-looking dispensary, worked by general practitioners. This was the old foundation (1838) of the present Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital. He entered and found Dr Pickett seeing patients, and offered him assistance, which resulted in the former asking him, the same afternoon, to join the staff of the hospital. From that date the entire character of the hospital changed, for Pegler threw his whole energy into its re-organisation and work. The present flourishing position of this old-established hospital, in the centre of the metropolis, will for all time be associated with the name of Hemington Pegler, and remain a lasting monument to his untiring energy.

He was a member of the Council and Curator of the Laryngological Museum of the International Medical Congress held in London in 1913, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (Vice-President and Curator of the Museum of the Section of Laryngology).

During the Great War he held the appointment of Surgeon-in-charge (1915 to 1918) of the Ear and Throat Department of the Mile End Military Hospital.

He was Hon. Surgeon-Laryngologist and Aurist to the Governess's Benevolent Institution, the Clergy Orphan Corporation, and the London College of Music.

On account of ill-health he retired from practice in 1921, and for the same reason was compelled to refuse the Presidency of the Oto-Laryngological Section at the British Medical Association Meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The anatomical and pathological aspect of the specialty particularly attracted him as shown by the *Map Scheme and Text of the Trigeminal Nerve*, which he published in 1913. He was also the author of *Surgical Treatment of some Common Forms of Nasal Insufficiency*, 1900. His monograph on *The Pathology and Treatment of Discrete Angioma of the Nasal Septum (Bleeding Polypus)* will remain, for all time, the standard classic on the subject. He was a strong supporter of the old Laryngological Society of London, and contributed many cases

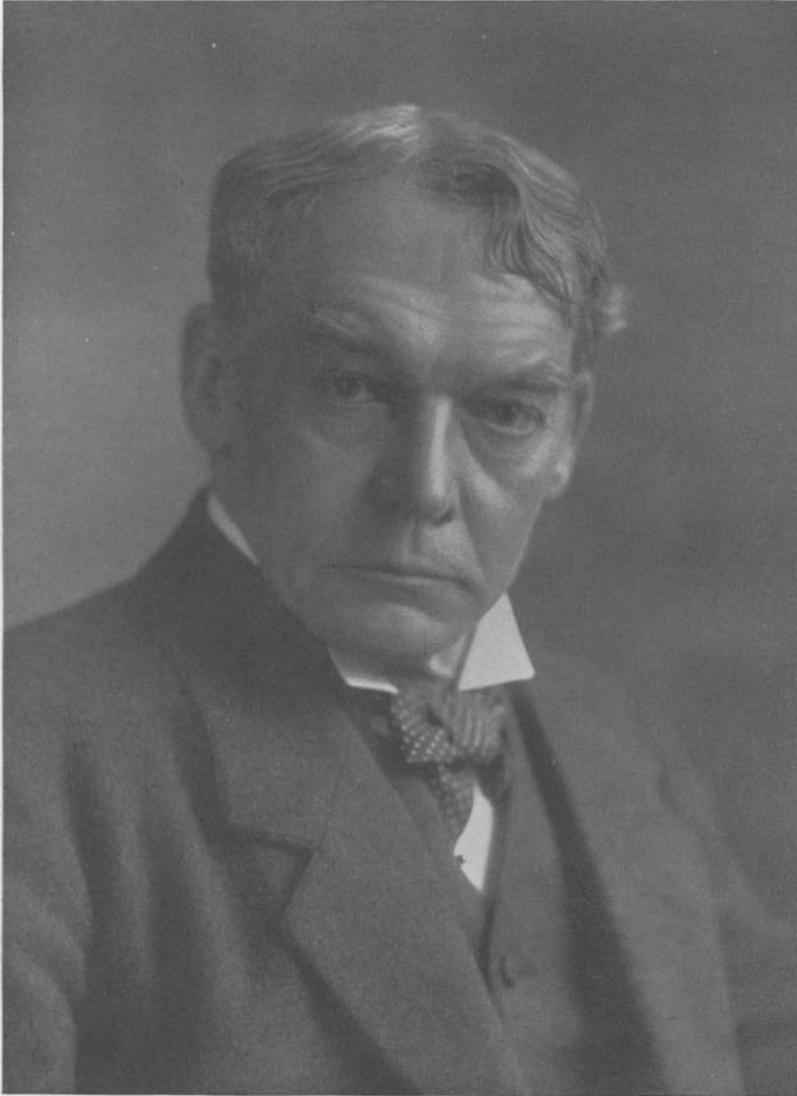


Photo by)

LOUIS HEMINGTON PEGLER

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to its clinical meetings, and during later years after its amalgamation with the Royal Society of Medicine—to the Section of Laryngology. He also contributed a number of articles on the subject of the specialty to the *Lancet* and *British Medical Journal*.

Outside his professional work he was an enthusiast in every branch of science, and especially interested in botany and geology, being a member of the British Bryological and Botanical Societies, and of several Archæological and Geological Societies.

During his earlier years in Derbyshire he was particularly interested in the fossils of the local coal seams, and got together a fine collection of fossil trees and ferns, including prehistoric instruments, which in later years he presented to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. Following his retirement from active practice he went to reside at Exeter, and travelled for two years round England collecting mosses for his large private herbarium, which he presented to the South London Institute.

Dr Frederick Spicer, who was a colleague of Hemington Pegler's for thirty-two years, first at the Central London Throat Hospital, and then at the Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, and therefore in a position to know how much he did for the specialty, writes:—

“He was truly one of the pioneers. He joined the Metropolitan in 1896, when (although it was the oldest Institution in Great Britain devoted to the treatment of diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat) it had fallen upon evil days and was being carried on as a Dispensary in part of a house in Grafton Street, by two general practitioners Dr Pickett and Dr Nesbitt. Seeing the opportunity and recognising the possibilities Pegler threw himself heart and soul into the business of rejuvenation, and succeeded to such a degree that, in a very short time, he gathered around him a band of young and progressive workers; he got together a most influential committee headed by the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, the father of the present Earl (now Chairman of the Hospital), and created an In-patient Department with twenty beds, where much real up-to-date work was done. Later it became necessary to enlarge the hospital, and thanks to the generous patronage of the late Lord Crawford, it was transferred to more commodious and suitable premises in Fitzroy Square (previously George Stoker's Oxygen Hospital).

“Pegler joined this institution while a general dispensary, and left it as one of the recognised centres of our specialty, a War Office Department, and one of the endowed charities of London. He was an indefatigable worker and a real good fellow, and will be sadly missed by all his colleagues.”

He is survived by his widow, Maud Edith Mary, youngest daughter of the late Francis W. Palmer of Bedford.

IRWIN MOORE.