

THE
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,
RHINOLOGY AND OTOLOGY.

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THE CONGRESS NUMBER.

THE occasion of the meeting of the XVIIth International Congress of Medicine in London this month provides an opportunity of casting a glance back over the road that our specialties have travelled in Britain since they first left the parental home of general medicine and surgery. For this reason the whole of the present issue of the JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY, RHINOLOGY AND OTOLOGY is given up to a series of articles historical in character, which, when compared with the long list (p. 433) of clinics now in active operation in Britain, may serve to indicate to our foreign visitors and readers, as well as to future workers, the level to which our special knowledge has attained, and the extent to which it has become disseminated throughout the length and breadth of the land at the present day.

The historical articles, for which we are indebted to writers whose names are household words wherever otology and laryngology are household topics, have been constructed mainly with the object of demonstrating and emphasising the influence of British investigators upon the development of special sciences. In doing so, the authors have as far as possible confined their attention to the achievements of men who have either retired from active practice, or have definitely "passed into history"—a limitation which is, of course, dictated by a desire to avoid the delicate task of appraising the work of living men.

In the case of rhinology, however, the extreme youth of this branch of medicine has naturally rendered it impossible to treat of it otherwise than by discussing the work of living men, but in the full and exhaustive *résumé* we owe to Drs. Logan Turner and W. G. Porter, there will be found, we believe, few or no omissions of any importance.

With regard to the illustrations we beg to express our most grateful thanks to Sir William Dalby, Sir Felix Semon, Prof. Urban Pritchard, Dr. de Havilland Hall, Dr. T. J. Walker (Peterborough), Dr. Laidlaw Purvis, Mr. Macleod Yearsley, and the family of Sir George Johnson for the loan of photographs, and Mr. R. Kershaw for permission to select from his unique collection of portraits the pictures of Toynbee, Wilde and Hinton, Sir Morell Mackenzie, and Lennox Browne.

In conclusion, we desire in the name of British oto-laryngology to extend to our colleagues from foreign lands, to our cousins from across the Atlantic, and to our brethren from over the Seven Seas, the heartiest of welcomes. May their sojourn among us lead to the furtherance of knowledge, the perfecting of skill, the formation and deepening of friendship, and the strengthening of the ties that make not only for scientific but also for political brotherhood!

THE HISTORY OF RHINO-LARYNGOLOGY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

BY SIR STCLAIR THOMSON,

President of the Section of Rhinology and Laryngology, Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine, London, August 6-12, 1913.

WE are generally agreed that laryngology originated in 1885, and owed its creation to the discovery of Señor Manuel Garcia. It was happily indicative of the cosmopolitan character of our speciality that Garcia was a Spaniard by birth, that he made his discovery in France, that he first published the invention in England, and that medical laryngoscopy was perfected in Vienna and Buda-Pesth and first presented to the world in an article in the *Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift* on March 27, 1858. But Manuel Garcia lived long in this country, and was known to many of us in his later years; he now takes his last sleep in English soil, so that the inventor of the laryngoscope came to be particularly identified with this country. Garcia died on July 1, 1906, in the 102nd year of his age. He is buried in the churchyard adjoining St. Edward's Chapel at Sutton Place, near Woking, in the beautiful county of Surrey.

But long before the middle of last century efforts had been made in England to see the living larynx, and important contributions had been made by rhinologists and laryngologists. So long ago as the year 1651 Highmore had given his name to the maxillary sinus, and in 1698 Cowper had shown how it could be opened and drained from a tooth-socket. In