RETROSPECT OF LARYNGOLOGY DURING 1900.

BY J. MACINTYRE.

DURING the past year a great deal of attention has been paid to diseases of the larynx, and although no striking discovery has been made, many clinical cases have been recorded, and valuable discussions at the various associations have taken place. As usual, the more serious chronic ailments, such as malignant disease and tuberculosis, have been very largely dealt with, but diphtheria and other important acute affections have not been neglected. The chronic affection which seems to bulk most in the literature is malignant disease, and greater attention than ever is being paid to early diagnosis and the best methods of treatment, which of course, in most instances, means the best operative procedure.

At the twenty-second annual meeting of the American Laryngological Association held in Washington in May last, these affections were under discussion, the first speaker being Dr. John Noland McKenzie, of Baltimore, who opened the proceedings with a plea for early naked-eye diagnosis and removal of the entire organ, with the neighbouring area of possible lymphatic infection. He made special reference to the question of removing a portion of the diseased structure for examination, and warned the profession against this on account of the risk of auto-infection, metastasis, stimulating growth, and lastly because the results are very inconclusive. Professor Fränkel, of Berlin, has elsewhere expressed himself differently; he thinks the microscopical examination of pieces removed from a tumour of the larynx is of fundamental importance in the diagnosis of cancer. Professor Moritz Schmidt has given us a valuable contribution to the diagnosis of laryngeal cancer. We may also here refer to Dr. Goris' interesting work on the immediate and remote effects of thyrotomy. Among many valuable papers of note, Dr. Bryson Delavan has published a series of elaborate statistics in tabular form, which were last month reproduced in this journal. The author incorporates the tables of other distinguished workers, and they certainly bring out the value of thyrotomy combined with early diagnosis as opposed to other methods of surgical procedure. As the author states, the figures speak convincingly for themselves.

At the thirteenth International Medical Congress, held in Paris this year, Dr. Gluck, of Berlin, discussed his method of performing the major operations of the larynx. In operations for stenosis and serious cicatricial adhesions, where he freely opened and extirpated

all pathological masses as far back as to free the anterior oesophageal wall, suturing the two openings in the trachea and larynx, the results were excellent. The report also refers to the technique of total thyrotomy and laryngectomy, operations for loss of substance, and lastly malignant disease of the larynx. He thinks that in extirpation of the larynx, or, more generally speaking, in all operations leading to death from aspiration pneumonia, prophylactic resection of the trachea absolutely prevents the formation of broncho-pneumonia foci. He has a special phonetic apparatus which he has used with more or less advantage in cases of cancer of the larynx, and his results are good. Dr. Courtade, in dealing with palliative treatment of malignant disease of the trachea and larynx, uses rubber catheters with a view of easing respiration, and recommends perchloride of iron and peroxide of hydrogen to check hæmorrhage. He also recommends for decreasing the quantity and fœtor of secretion, the use of menthol oil, eucalyptus, or tracheal sprays, and for external granulation swabbing with pyoctanin. An important paper by Gougenheim and Lombard has been published during the year, in which they state that complete laryngectomy would be performed as the operation by choice were it not for the high death-rate. At present, however, they admit that preference must be given to partial laryngectomy. While there may be much to suggest conflict in the views of different physicians and surgeons in the work during the past year, there can be no question that progress has been and is being made, and that surgeons are becoming more reconciled in their ideas. Sir Felix Semon has expressed the view that, while thyrotomy is still somewhat unpopular, an era of far greater usefulness is dawning for it, and we think this is the tendency and most approved method in this country, at least.

Tuberculosis of the larynx has, as usual, received a considerable amount of attention from workers in our special department during the year, and we have had the usual varieties in formulæ for palliation locally and constitutionally. Much controversy, it will be remembered, was caused some years ago by the more advanced notions of certain workers dealing more particularly with inter-laryngeal surgical operations, methods which led to a considerable amount of discussion, doubtless on one side reasonably induced by those who held that it was a great responsibility to promise what might not be in our power to those afflicted with this serious affection. In this connection, therefore, the work of Dr. Freudenthal is of interest, as he has given us some results in curetting after Heryng's method. He states that he cannot recognise in advance

cases suitable for this treatment; as yet it is experimental. Twenty-nine cases are recorded, and of these eighteen were not improved; in seven there was slow improvement fairly attributable to the application of the curette, and in four there was temporary amelioration.

At the Ipswich meeting of the British Medical Association held last year, an important discussion took place upon the bacteriological diagnosis of diphtheria, Dr. Andrewes Lister and Dr. Lazarus Barlow taking part in the proceedings. The President, Dr. Klein, in summing up, stated that the views expressed by the two former gentlemen would commend themselves to bacteriologists, namely, that the bacteriologist cannot at present do all that the clinician expects. Opinions such as these are of value, inasmuch as they show us that this method of diagnosis has its limits as well as others. Many other papers have during the year appeared upon this point of diagnosis, and gradually the true value to be attached to positive and negative evidences is being recognised. The different forms in which the bacilli are found, their association with other organisms, and the relationship of all to the clinical aspects of the disease, have received much attention, but a great deal yet remains to be done.

The pathology and treatment of toxic paralysis of the larynx formed the subject of discussion at the same British Laryngological Association meeting, and Dr. Watson Williams' paper reported in this journal is of importance.

Among other papers of general interest, we have one by Dr. Aitken on the resonator of the voice, which he holds to consist of a series of air-spaces above the vocal cords, which he regards as a distinct instrument by itself, the acoustic principle being solely the characteristic vibration of air enclosed in the hollow spaces. Professor Krause's work on singers' nodes and treatment, as well as that of Dr. Capart, are of interest. Botey has given us an excellent article upon vocal trouble in singers, with remarks upon treatment, which is of importance, coming as it does from one who has had great experience. Flatau has published a paper on loss of voice, and Rosenberg has written one upon the same question dealing with the pathological aspect.

Amongst others of clinical interest, we note a case of laryngeal whistling recorded by Sir Felix Semon during the year. Schrötter reports a tumour of the thyroid which was not seen on quiet respiration, but which emerged on coughing, and an interesting case of foreign body in the right bronchus which could be seen by means of Röntgen-ray examination at the level of the fourth rib on

the right side of the sternum, and which was removed under cocaine *per vias naturales*. Armstrong reports a case of thyroid duct and its removal with the cyst, and Bouli records a case of direct fracture of the larynx.

Considerable improvement has been made during the past year in the technique of the X rays and methods of diagnosis, one of the most important results in the former being that of MacKenzie Davidson, who has introduced an apparatus whereby objects may be seen stereoscopically on the fluorescent screen. The position which the Röntgen rays occupy in diseases of the larynx and neighbouring organs was discussed at the meeting of the British Laryngological Association, and a report of the proceedings will be found in the journal. There are two conditions in which they have been found of advantage: firstly, in connection with foreign bodies in the larynx, and cases are from time to time being reported, showing continued use and value in this region; and, secondly, in the diagnosis of those affections which indirectly affect this organ. Sufficient clinical evidence has now been produced to show that in aneurism, enlargement of the heart, and deposit in the lung, we have got an additional test in the X rays, and more than once it has been claimed by the surgeon that he has been able to diagnose the precise pathological condition at an earlier date than would have been possible by any other means. This question was discussed in the presidential address to the Röntgen Society in November, a report of which will be found in the Archives for the present session. An interesting series of experiments upon the therapeutic action of the X rays has been made by Drs. Wolfenden and Forbes Ross, who have come to the conclusion that, far from destroying micro-organisms, they actually stimulate the growth. Certainly, so far we have no clear record of benefit obtained in tubercle of the larynx by their application to the neck.

RETROSPECT OF RHINOLOGY.

By DR. A. SANDFORD (CORK).

A RETROSPECT of the work done during the past year in the field of nasal surgery and therapeutics resolves itself mainly into a retrospect of details and of industrious investigation rather than of important innovations.

The multitude of interesting and instructive communications relative to this special subject which have appeared in this journal