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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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MANUEL GARCIA.

Invented the Laryngoscope, 1855.

Celebrates His 100th Birthday, March 17th, 1905.

Manuel Garcia was born at Madrid on the 17th of March, 1805,—exactly 100 years ago. We may realize what this means by the fact that as a child he had to leave his native Spain owing to the advance of the Duke of Wellington's army in the Peninsular War. Indeed, it is said that as a lad he was an onlooker at the Battle of Talavera.

At the age of 15 he received instruction in Harmony from Fétis and in singing from his father. It is nearly 80 years since he accompanied his father and his sister, the celebrated prima donna, Madame Malibran, to New York to introduce Rossini's "Barber of Seville." At that time New York was a comparatively small town of about 160,000 inhabitants—less than one-twentieth of its present population—and the Puritan element was still so strong that Saturday evening opera performances had to be abandoned because the New Yorkers would not go to a theatre on the eve of the Sabbath.

We find Señor Garcia in Paris once more in 1829, when he quitted the stage and devoted himself to teaching music. A little later he undertook a serious scientific enquiry into the conformation of the

vocal organs, limits of registers and the mechanism of singing. The results were: (1) his invention of the laryngoscope, and (2) his "Mémoire sur la voix Humaine" presented to the French Institut in 1840, which obtained for him the congratulations of the Academy and may be said to be the foundation of all subsequent investigations into the voice. Appointed Professor of Singing at the Conservatoire he published in 1847 his "Traité complet de l'art du chant, en deux parties," which has been translated into Italian, German and English and has gained a world-wide reputation. Among his pupils may be mentioned Jenny Lind, Catherine Hayes and Henriette Nissen (afterwards Madame Saloman) M. Bataille, and his sister Madame Viardot.

In 1850 Señor Garcia resigned his position at the Conservatoire and came to London, where he was appointed a Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, and was long one of the leading teachers of singing in London. Amongst his other publications are, *Ecole de Chant*, 1840; *Hints on Singing*; and a pamphlet on the Physiology of the Voice. He is a Chevalier de l'Ordre de Mérite, a correspondent of the University of Stockholm, and the Königsberg University has elected him a Doctor of Medicine, *honoris causa*. He is an Honorary Member of the Laryngological Society of London and an Honorary Fellow of the American Laryngological Association.

His discovery of the laryngoscope and his original communication to the Royal Society are dealt with elsewhere in this number. A mere record of Señor Garcia's life and publications would fail to give any suggestion of the culture, charm and vitality of this Grand Old Man of Music. In addition to his native Spanish he speaks fluent French and English, and has a good acquaintance with German. He is in the enjoyment of all his faculties, possessed of excellent sight and hearing, and with a keen zest in life. For many years he has been an honoured guest at the annual dinner of the Laryngological Society of London, where he has appreciated the sociability of the evening and not infrequently made a bright and racy speech, seldom starting for his suburban home some four miles off; until after 10 o'clock. It has always been difficult for anyone meeting

him for the first time at these réunions to believe that he was very nearly a centenarian.

The universality of science and art is well shown in this centenary, where a Spaniard, resident in London, is presented with his portrait painted by an American, and subscribed for by laryngological and musical societies from all over the world.

Pioneers and discoverers in former years were persecuted; in later times they were simply ignored and their inventions neglected. Señor Garcia has the satisfaction of having lived to see the jubilee of his discovery—a discovery which has created a complete specialty, has added extensively to the science of medicine, and has given help and healing to countless thousands.

On our side we have the delight of being able to acknowledge our indebtedness to this hale and hearty centenarian and of seeing him surrounded by all

“That which should accompany old age,
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends.”

THE GARCIA CENTENARY, AND THE JUBILEE OF LARYNGOSCOPY.

It is a curious and interesting fact that these two celebrations should be contemporaneous. On the 17th of March, Señor Manuel Garcia celebrates his 100th birthday. It was in the year 1855 that he presented to the Royal Society his paper demonstrating the possibility of seeing the larynx in the living subject; and in the present year therefore laryngoscopy celebrates its jubilee.

The arrangements for the celebration of the 17th of March are complete and promise a most successful festival. In the house of the Laryngological Society that morning Señor Garcia will receive addresses from the Spanish Ambassador, the Royal Society, the Prussian Academy of Sciences, and the Koenigsberg University, from musical bodies (Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, etc.), from his old pupils and from various laryngological

societies. Although addresses will be sent from America it is doubtful whether there will be any delegates to present them in person. The Berlin Laryngological Society will be represented by Professor Glück, Dr. Landgraf and Dr. Kuttner. The delegates of the South German Laryngological Society are Professor Jurasz of Heidelberg, and Dr. Avellis of Frankfort-on-Maine. The Société Française de Laryngologie will be represented by Dr. Moure of Bordeaux, Dr. Lermoyez of Paris, and Dr. Texier of Nantes. Dr. Moll of Arnheim represents the Dutch Laryngological Society, and Dr. Delsaux of Brussels is the delegate of the Belgian. The Rhenish Society is sending Dr. Hansberg and Dr. Hirschland. The American Laryngological Association is sending an address to its Honorary Fellow, and greetings will also be sent by the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology, and the Section on Laryngology of the New York Academy of Medicine.

• After these addresses Señor Garcia will be presented with his portrait. This, as we have already announced, has been subscribed for by laryngologists and musicians from all over the world. It is painted by Mr. John Sargent. We need hardly remind our readers that Mr. Sargent is the son of a Boston physician; that he was born in Florence; that he is a Royal Academician; and that he is one of the most celebrated portrait painters of the time in any country. We are assured that the portrait is a *chef-d'oeuvre* and many readers will doubtless be anxious to secure engravings of it. There will be a limited number of artist's proofs, signed by both the painter and the centenarian sitter. Needless to say that early application should be made for these.

On the afternoon of the same day a special sitting will be held at the Laryngological Society when its members will show their foreign visitors interesting cases and results.

The "Festa" will close with a banquet at the Hotel Cecil in the evening, the music being supplied by the former pupils of the centenarian *Macstro*—the guest of the evening.

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