THE LARYNGOSCOPE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

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A quarter of a century has passed since the young Lochinvar of the West had the temerity to appear upon the laryngological and otological horizon, to withstand the vicissitudes and trials which every newcomer in medical journalism must necessarily experience before reaching the anxiously sought for goal.

Handicapped somewhat at first by a name which did not appeal to some of our fastidious friends, THE LARYNGOSCOPE has weathered the storm, and is today accepted by its readers both here and across the seas as a valuable and progressive archive of current thought and contemporary work.

It was not a simple matter to select a comprehensive single word descriptive of the two specialties to which the journal was to be devoted, and as the "laryngoscope" had become an illuminating instrument for examination of diseases of the nose, throat and ear, this name was chosen to carry its message around the world.

We were indeed fortunate at the start to have such earnest and loyal workers as Frank M. Rumbold and M. A. Goldstein of St. Louis, S. Scott Bishop of Chicago, W. Scheppegrell of New Orleans, F. B. Eaton of San Jose, California, together with our foreign associates, J. Dundas Grant of England, Victor Urbantschitch of Austria, A. Hartman of Germany, J. J. Kirk Duncanson of Scotland, J. K. Kimura of Japan, C. Sterling Ryerson of Canada, Fred. Semeleder of Mexico, and Gottlieb Kaiër of Denmark.

It is not often that a monthly periodical in medicine is able to start off on its career with a subscription list of three hundred prominent members of the profession, in advance of its first issue, but such support indicated that there was a place for a worthy American monthly journal in the domain of laryngology and otology, and the earnest co-operation of many eminent devotees in this specialty has brought THE LARYNGOSCOPE to the dignified position which it now occupies. When we recall the unfortunate and untimely end of that splendid journal, the Archives of Laryngology—so ably edited in 1880 by George M. Lefferts and Elsberg of New York, J. Solis-Cohen of Philadelphia, and Knight of Boston—which enjoyed a brief existence of only four years, owing to a lack of proper recognition by those interested in this field of medicine, we cannot permit

this opportunity to pass without expressing our admiration for the present editor-in-chief, M. A. Goldstein of St. Louis, and for his determination and unceasing efforts to place before the profession a monthly journal which would command their respect and support.

In these days of rapid medical progress, when books become obsolete in a comparatively short time, the editorial staff deems it advisable to offer to the readers of *THE LARYNGOSCOPE*, the essence of practical experience of those engaged in treating diseases of the nose, throat, and ear, so that the journal may be an epitome of valuable information. It has been our constant aim to offer worthy material in a condensed form, so that unnecessary reading could be avoided and only vital matter be given prominence. In the first number, abstracts both domestic and foreign were selected, and this practice has been continued in each issue, thus attempting to offer the latest information that could be obtained by the associated staff, both here and abroad. Complete reports of special societies appeared in the pages of the early numbers, and soon *THE LARYNGOSCOPE* became the official organ of the American Rhinological, Laryngological and Otological Society. The American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology (Oto-Laryng. Section), and published the monthly meetings of the Laryngological and Otological Sections of the New York Academy of Medicine, as well as the transactions of other special societies.

In these days of advanced diagnostic technique, it is interesting to recall that in the first number of *THE LARYNGOSCOPE*, published a quarter of a century ago, J. Mount Bleyer called attention to the photo-fluoroscope, an instrument that could photograph an object in the living tissues at a distance. The important advantage he claimed for the photo-fluoroscope over the Roentgen method of photography was that curves, corners, and angles were no obstacles to it; while an object in the Roentgen photograph must always be in direct contact on a flat plate containing the sensitized plate, with his instrument the object could be photographed at a distance. Dr. Bleyer published in this paper photo-fluoroscopic pictures of a larynx with an intubation tube in position; also of a lost intubation tube found in the trachea and removed by the aid of this valuable art. He further maintained that he was able to obtain distinct definitions of tumors, growths, foreign bodies, and various diseased conditions of the larynx, bones of the face, and accessory cavities, and the lungs. A description of his instrument and its method of application appeared with illustrations,—so that twenty-five years ago the idea of seeing by human device through many inches of solid matter was no longer a chimera.

In the February, 1896, number of *THE LARYNGOSCOPE*, J. Solis-Cohen of Philadelphia, reported a case of *laryngotomy (laryngo-fissure) without impairment of voice*, thus ending the dispute between surgeons and laryngologists that division of the thyroid cartilage permanently impaired the voice. His patient was a child 3 years of age, whose thyroid cartilage he divided in order to remove a sliver of turkey bone the size of an adult thumb nail, which had been partially incarcerated for six weeks in the right ventricle of the larynx. Recovery was prompt, and the voice became perfect in two months. With our present direct laryngoscopic examination and technique, corroborated by X-ray photography, so formidable an operation would not be necessary, for such foreign bodies can now be found without much loss of time.

Early in 1907, the publishing department of *THE LARYNGOSCOPE* had the pleasure of placing before the profession Chevalier Jackson's classic and authoritative volume on Tracheo-Bronchoscopy, Esophagoscopy, and Gastroscopy. Up to that time, the only information on these subjects in the English language was in the reports of cases published in various journals which did not give much aid for working data. In his finely illustrated book, Jackson described in clear and concise manner the technique of direct laryngoscopy, tracheo-bronchoscopy, and examination of the esophagus and stomach, and directed attention to the difficulties and dangers that are encountered in their application. This was the first practical study of the subject under consideration, and was mainly the result of his personal experience. The instruction that its pages offered did much to stimulate the employment of this valuable method of direct examination. Due credit was given to Professor Gustav Killian for his studies of the trachea and bronchi, and the volume was dedicated to "Killian, the Father of Bronchoscopy," as a token of esteem.

That direct inspection of the esophagus was not a recent discovery, is shown in Jackson's historical data. Bonzini, in 1807, examined the upper end of the esophagus; Voltolini and Waldenberg, in 1860; and Stoerck, in 1861, described esophageal specula, using the laryngeal mirror. In 1868, Kussmaul diagnosed a carcinoma of the thoracic esophagus, using a Desormeaux urethroscope 43 cm. long. The instrument was rigid, and he used the "sword swallowing" position.

In 1896, Mikulicz reported successful cases of tracheoscopy; and in 1897 Kirstein described tracheoscopy as well as his well known direct laryngoscopy. For the latter, he used at first a tubular spatula. Killian, in 1897, removed a foreign body from a bronchus and

demonstrated the feasibility of upper bronchoscopy. Later, he developed lower bronchoscopy. These were the greatest steps in endoscopy, which led up to the present day study of pulmonary suppuration by direct inspection and local medication.

We were fortunate to present to our readers in the first number of *THE LARYNGOSCOPE* an interesting and instructive paper by J. Dundas Grant, F.R.C.S. of London, on "The Clinical Investigation of Ear Disease." In his lucid manner, the author described the various steps in reaching a diagnosis, and gave in detail the numerous tests which were employed. Though written twenty-five years ago, this article could be read with much profit today. It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Dundas Grant to our shores at the time of the International Otological Congress held at Boston in 1912, and to then renew the acquaintance made in London some years previously, when his cordial attention left a most pleasing impression of our visit to England.

In the December number of our first year (1896) there appeared a monograph by J. Mount Bleyer, F.R.A.M.S., entitled "An Essay On the Organs of Taste." This article was a companion to the one presented to the French Laryngological Society of Paris, in May, 1896, "Memoir On the Odoriferous Sense," by the same worker. In this interesting paper, the author described his method of investigation, which was of a painstaking nature, and after careful experiments he came to the conclusion that true impressions of taste could only exist when the glosso-pharyngeal nerves were intact. Many physiological data were given, and much investigation must have been required to collect the facts presented.

We merely mention these matters to remind our readers that the pages of *THE LARYNGOSCOPE* are always open to original thought on any subject associated with diseases of the upper air passages.

During the summer of 1919, we were honored by the presence of another of our British associates, Sir St. Clair Thomson, whose genial hospitality at the International Otological Congress in London in 1899 added so greatly to the enjoyment of our stay. His brilliant attainments and charm of manner made an indelible impression upon all who were privileged to meet him, and on his return home he left behind a host of admiring friends. Sir St. Clair's association with *THE LARYNGOSCOPE* dates back for more than twenty years, during which period he has been the European editor of this journal. He has been knighted by the King of England, and at present is the attending laryngologist and aurist to the royal family. Before closing these rather desultory reminiscences, the writer wishes to pay sincere homage to those of our colleagues who have passed to the

"Great Beyond." It has been his privilege to have been an associate of that skillful laryngologist, Joseph W. Gleitsmann, whose erudite contributions to the literature on diseases of the larynx and upper air passages were the result of an extensive and observant clinical experience. Under a somewhat rugged exterior, there existed a sensitive nature, which deeply appreciated the slightest personal thoughtfulness. We were associated for many years at the New York Polyclinic Medical School, and his diagnostic acumen and skillful technique in the surgical treatment of laryngeal diseases formed a great attraction to the student body. He was an authority on tubercular and malignant involvement of the larynx, and *THE LARYNGOSCOPE* had the pleasure of publishing a number of his original contributions. In his demise, the profession lost an earnest and energetic worker.

Among the number of well known and distinguished colleagues whose scientific contributions have advanced the knowledge of our specialty, but who are no longer with us, we recall the names of H. Holbrook Curtis, E. Fletcher Ingalls, William L. Ballenger, Edgar M. Holmes of Boston, and Christian R. Holmes of Cincinnati. When the latter realized that his end was not far off, his remarkable fortitude prompted him to dictate letters to the people of Cincinnati, to the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati, and to the faculty of the Medical School, earnestly requesting them to continue the great work which he had started and to carry it through to a successful termination. In him the profession lost a profound scholar and a great man.

In this group of talented scientists who have been called to their final resting place and whose individuality has left an indelible impression upon the subject of laryngology, we recall with profound admiration and respect the names of George M. Lefferts, Gustav Killian, and Sir Felix Semon. By their skill and unceasing energy, Lefferts in America, Killian in Germany, and Sir Felix Semon in England did much to advance the prominence of laryngology, and their successful efforts have placed it among the important chapters in the domain of medicine. Semon's investigations in malignant disease of the throat, and his work on functions and diseases of the motor-nerves of the larynx are classic. Though born in Germany, where he received his medical degree, he visited Vienna and Paris, and finally settled in England, where he became a member of the Royal College of Physicians. He was one of the founders of the Laryngological Society of London and became its president

in 1894. At the Diamond Jubilee in 1897, he was knighted; and in 1902, he was decorated C.V.O., being advanced to K.C.V.O. in 1905. In 1901 he was appointed Physician Extraordinary to King Edward VII. During the World War he was loyal to his adopted country. In 1884, he founded the *Internationale Centralblatt für Laryngologie und Rhinologie* and he remained its editor for twenty-five years. Some years ago he visited this country, and was received with all the honor and attention which was due so great a scholar. A large number of distinguished laryngologists assembled to greet him at a reception and dinner, and in his modest manner he eloquently expressed his thanks and appreciation for the attention shown him. Sir Felix always had the strength of his convictions and the brilliancy of mind to support them. He was a lover of music and the arts, and counted among his friends many distinguished and cultured men and women of Europe.

To Gustav Killian the science of medicine owes much. His studies on the nasal sinuses and his contributions on upper and lower bronchoscopy were the incentive to our present knowledge in the treatment of nasal and pulmonary suppuration, and may yet prove to be the dominating influence in ridding the human race of the ravages of the great white plague.

During the past quarter of a century THE LARYNGOSCOPE has constantly aimed to offer to its readers the practical experience and scientific investigations of recognized authorities, and all those who had interesting observations to record in the realm of rhinology, laryngology and otology. We earnestly hope that the splendid support accorded this journal in the past years may continue uninterruptedly, and more firmly bind the good fellowship which exists among those who are friends of a worthy cause.