

## BERNHARD FRAENKEL.

### BIOGRAPHY.

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In a spirit of mingled earnestness and good fellowship, the host of friends, admirers, and pupils of Bernhard Fraenkel unite to appropriately honor the occasion of his 70th birthday anniversary. This event marks no epoch of time for one so well preserved, mentally and physically, and for one whose active faculties belie his years, whose industry and energy have steadily advanced and for whom there is neither today nor yesterday. For him this 70th birthday is but an arbitrary epoch of time. But for us, his friends and admirers, this festive day may serve as a retrospect; it may reveal him in the light of his versatility and individuality, and make clear to us our regard for him and what he has accomplished for us and the world at large.

Bernhard Fraenkel was born on Nov. 17th, 1836 at Elberfeld, the son of a respected physician. After completing his course at the high school of his native city, he entered the university of Würzburg in 1855. In the following year he went to Berlin, where he passed his medical examination, July 16th, 1859. On the 23d of May, 1860, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. While a student, he had the good fortune to count among his teachers such men as Johannes Müller, Traube, Langenbeck and Virchow. After acquiring his medical degree, Fraenkel worked under Virchow at the Pathological Institute of the Berlin University. After this, he took up general practice. From 1871 to 1875 he directed the in-patient department of the Augusta Hospital in Berlin.

At that time, Türck and Czermak were making technical improvements in the recently discovered laryngoscope of Garcia, in order to increase the practical usefulness of that instrument. Their contributions created the greatest furore. Here an ingenious technique made it possible for the human eye to see for the first time organs in actual function. The whole world was convinced that this discovery would usher in a new science which would call forth the greatest enthusiasm.

Among those most highly interested in this new method was Fraenkel, who, not satisfied to merely accept, entered the new field conscious of his new purpose. Despite the ever growing demands

of his practice and other scientific work upon him, in the face of months of interruption due to the three wars in which he took part, he acquired such skill in the new method of examination, that, through original investigation, he was soon able to add many improvements to the yet incomplete instrumentarium.

After obtaining recognition as a liberal contributor to the literature of rhinology and laryngology, he was invited to write the chapters referring to Diseases of the Nose in Ziemssen's System of Medicine. He gradually drifted from general practice into special work, and soon devoted himself exclusively to diseases of the nose and throat.

During the long years of service in these specialties, scarcely a question of interest relating to his work has escaped his attention. Special mention should be made of his investigation in Reflex Neuroses of Nasal Origin, Pachydermia Laryngis, Carcinoma of the Larynx, Prolapsus of the Ventricle of Morgagni, Paralysis of the Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve, and the Minute Anatomy of the Larynx.

Besides these investigations, he found time to contribute special chapters to encyclopaedia, year books, and collections, which are highly valued for their rich subject matter as well as for their perfect form. In each of these works, he constantly kept in mind the relation of the specialty to general medicine, for, during his early experience, he recognized the fact that a specialty declined as soon as this relation was disregarded.

His contributions to science are no greater, however, than his organizing ability and his talent to stimulate others to greater activity. As evidence of this, we can point to three splendid achievements. Bernhard Fraenkel was the first to bring about the establishment of a Rhino-Laryngological Clinic and Polyclinic at a German University. The founding of this State Institution was the realization of more than personal ambition. It denoted that Rhino-Laryngology had been authoritatively recognized, and all those who, with Fraenkel, had labored to this end and for so many years, could look upon their accomplishment as a triumph. What this clinical and teaching institution has accomplished can best be appreciated by glancing at its records. Those who sought relief within its portals can be numbered by the tens of thousands; and many young physicians obtained their first rhino-laryngologic experience here.

Bernhard Fraenkel is the founder of the Berlin Laryngological Society. This association was one of the first in Germany composed of specialists who sought mutual benefit in an exchange of ideas. As a member of this Society, I must refrain from mentioning its attainments, but I may be allowed to remark that it enjoys an en-

viable reputation and has done a great deal towards establishing a feeling of good-fellowship among the laryngologists of Berlin. Not only the local members of this Society, but the laryngological world at large has felt its influence. This Society possesses perhaps the largest laryngological library in the world, which has often been placed at the disposal of non-members in aiding them to prepare their papers and theses.

The third work which we owe to Fraenkel is the *Archiv für Laryngologie und Rhinologie*, founded twelve years ago. It now comprises eighteen splendid volumes, a monumentum aere perennius, an evidence of the spirit which animates Rhinology and Laryngology; an evidence, too, that this science still has a message to unfold!

Even these results were not sufficient for Fraenkel's untiring energy. From the very beginning of his scientific career to the present day, a question that has fascinated him and claimed his closest attention is that of tuberculosis. Aside from a few casuistic writings, his first systematic work was in this direction. He has sought repeatedly, from year to year, to solve these problems clinically and experimentally. The Tuberculin of Koch, the Cantharidin of Liebreich aroused his greatest zeal. In 1890, Von Leyden advocated the appointment of a Special Commission for the establishment of National Sanatoria for Tuberculosis, and Fraenkel, as delegate from the Berlin society and as acting chairman, lent all possible aid to the cause. At this time, the world was startled by the news that Robert Koch had found a specific remedy for tuberculosis, and this Fata Morgana brought the deliberations of this and other commissions to a halt; but not for long. On the 7th of September, 1894, in Budapest, at the International Hygienic Congress, Ernst von Leyden, the untiring champion, in his address, "The Disposal of Tuberculous Patients in Metropolitan Cities", stimulated anew the scientific world to more energetic and conscientious effort toward annihilating tuberculosis. From this time on, the work progressed, sometimes slowly, but ever onward and in the front rank, working with his friend, Ernst von Leyden, we find Fraenkel. He was a member of the German Central Committee for the Erection of Sanatoria. He was the first to suggest a General Congress to combat Tuberculosis, and thereby created an international interest in the subject; he lent all his energy toward forming the Berlin-Brandenburger Sanatoria Association which erected the model institution at Belzig. He collaborated with E. v. Leyden and C. Gerhard in founding the *Zeitschrift für Tuberkulose und Heilstättenwesen*, a journal which served as an organ for all matters pertaining to the

medical and social problems of tuberculosis. If much good resulted from such ambitious projects, if many tears were dried, if many griefs were assuaged, and many misfortunes prevented, of the gratitude meted out to men of similar type and inclinations, we owe a share to Fraenkel; for in this worthy cause that united the efforts of men of all civilized countries, Fraenkel was most active and did all that lay within the scope of human power.

Why is it surprising, then, that municipalities, societies, and individuals were unstinting in their honors and evidences of friendship? He was the recipient of many decorations. He holds rank as Honorary Professor Ordinarius at the University of Berlin; Professor Ordinarius at the Kaiser-Wilhelm Academy. He is a Geheimer Medizinalrat, Member of the Prussian Medical Council, and of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

He is President of the Berlin and German Laryngological Societies, is a member of the Praesidium of the German Central Committee and International Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and is an honorary and corresponding member of a large number of medical societies. These honors have always been gratefully accepted by Fraenkel, without, however, overestimating their value. Always preferring the office to the title, he nevertheless usually chose those whose duties were the most arduous. He spared neither the office nor himself to promote its best interests. The valuable resources of his private practice, his clinics, and collections, were always at the disposal of his professional colleagues, whether or not these men shared his opinions in regard to scientific matters.

Of his professional associates, he demands absolute frankness. Where he encounters hypocrisy, he is quickly aroused; but his anger is of short duration, and a calmer judgment soon controls his quick temper. The enthusiasm of the youth of twenty is mastered by the experienced, mature man of seventy, who has a deep knowledge of his fellows and a warm heart for them as well.

In this word-picture, I have endeavored to portray Bernhard Fraenkel as he appeared on his 70th Birthday. Our acquaintance began 23 years ago, and during 18 years we have been striving towards the same end, sometimes at variance with one another, but never have I felt that a difference of opinion altered his kindly feelings towards me, while my estimate of him has been strengthened with every exchange of ideas. I esteem him as a distinguished scholar, physician, and teacher, I value him as the organizer of many social improvements, and honor him as a warm, sincere and upright man. May he, as he is today, be spared for many, many years to his family, his friends, and to humanity.