

THE
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**THE OPERATIVE SURGERY OF LABYRINTHINE
 SUPPURATION.**

THE Otological Section of the Royal Society was the scene of an interesting and important discussion on the occasion of its last meeting. Messrs. West and Scott contributed a valuable and elaborate paper on "The Operative Surgery of Labyrinthitis." This was not a mere arm-chair study, but was founded on a personal experience of thirty cases. After reference to the work of other operators, the authors gave a minute description of the anatomy of the labyrinth, of the morbid appearance, and particularly of the paths of infection. The analysis of the symptomatology presented many interesting features, one being the fact that nine of the thirty cases presented no "labyrinthine" symptoms. In most instances vertigo, vomiting, and deafness were marked. Tinnitus was only complained of in three, severe, deep-seated pain in the ear in four, and headache, relieved by labyrinthine operation, in four. The temperature and pulse were in no case characteristic, and spontaneous nystagmus was not observed. In the discussion the questions were raised of the diagnostic value of diminution of hearing for the highest pitched tones, nystagmus excited or not by syringing with hot or comparatively cold water (Barany), and other equilibration tests. As will be seen from our abstract of the proceedings, the question of the frequency of dangerous labyrinthine involvement in the course of suppuration of the middle ear was raised by Mr. Hunter Tod, who, in 350 cases of radical mastoid

operation, only remembered three in which there was evidence of disease of the labyrinth apart from superficial erosion of the external semi-circular canal. He pleaded for abstention from operation on the labyrinth unless there were very definite symptoms of a suppurative lesion being present. He admitted the possibility of caries of the promontory or chronic suppuration of the labyrinth being the cause of failure of the complete mastoid operation to cure the suppuration, but he had seen no serious symptoms, and as the result of proper treatment it was very rare that complete cure was not eventually obtained.

Such discussions, bringing out differences of opinion, due to various circumstances, are most valuable in enabling us gradually and surely to arrive at correct views as to the scope as well as the limitations of this valuable extension of our operative field.

LARYNGO-RHINOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN VIENNA.

President : Hofrat Professor O. CHIARI.

Treasurer : Dr. G. SCHEFF.

Secretary : Professor GROSSMANN, IX Garnisongasse 10, Vienna.

To celebrate the jubilee of Turck and Czermak, an International Laryngo-Rhinological Congress will be held in Vienna from 21st to the 25th of the present month, April, 1908. A rich and interesting programme has been drawn up, and, as will be seen, the Congress will be attended by a very large number of specialists of distinction from almost every civilised country. In order that the members of the Congress may become acquainted with each other, there will be held on April 20 a social meeting, which will, no doubt, amply fulfil its purpose. On the 21st the opening ceremony will take place, on the 22nd the formal discussions will be opened and held, and on the subsequent days various papers will be read and discussed.

The following is a list of discussions :

(1) Sir FELIX SEMON (London).—"On the General Treatment of Local Diseases of the Upper Air-passages."

(2) Professor B. FRÄNKEL (Berlin) and Dr. LERMOYEZ (Paris).—"On Laryngeal Rhinology from the Point of View of General Medical Instruction and Examination in this Department in the Different Countries."

(3) Dr. GLEITSMANN (New York) and Professor HERYNG (War-