

A FEW NOTES ON EAR, NOSE AND THROAT WORK, AS TAUGHT IN BERLIN AND VIENNA.

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A year's attendance at the greatest polyclinics of the world in these specialties, besides vastly improving one's knowledge of them directly, and of the relations which these organs bear to each other and to constitutional diseases indirectly, cannot fail to impress the student from Canada with the difference in the methods of teaching as employed in these Meccas of medicine and as used in his *Alma Mater*.

All post-graduate students who seriously devote themselves to the study of diseases of the ear, nose and throat, take the course of operative work on the cadaver, which includes anatomy, physiology and surgery, and pathology to a greater or less extent.

Any number of temporal bones are at one's disposal, and on these the various mastoid and middle ear operations are practised, under the guidance of a "Docent," who also demonstrates the variations in the configurations of the bone, developmental changes and so on. The petrous portion of the temporal bone is sawn into several small cubes and the internal ear chiselled out and examined, and in this careful, painstaking way a most thorough acquaintance with the surgical anatomy of the organ of hearing is acquired.

Pathological specimens of the ear, as well as of the nose, mouth and larynx, are retained for microscopical examination. The gross specimens are also examined with the stereoscope, a very useful instrument to assist us in getting a general impression of the gross pathological changes.

The different polyclinics vary much not only as regards the number of patients and visiting physicians that attend each, but also regarding the therapeutics and modern appliances. A better class of patients visit the Berlin hospitals, there being less poverty there than in Vienna. Here one is struck with the large number of cases of tuberculosis, laryngitis, and syphilis of the mouth and larynx, the constitutional disease taking on its worst form among the poor of this city.

All operations are performed in the Polyclinic or its adjoining operating room. Such students (*i.e.*, post-graduates) who have proved themselves capable of making good diagnoses, are permitted to perform minor operations, including paracentesis of the tympanic membrane, removal of adenoids and tonsils, cauterizing turbinates, snaring polypi, etc., etc.

The more difficult operations which students are sometimes allowed to perform, are those on the mastoid, removal of polypi from the ear, removal of turbinates, opening the antrum of Highmore, curetting the larynx, etc.