

THE
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PROFESSOR JOSEF GRUBER.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

ONE of the most striking figures in the history of otology has passed away in the person of the late Professor Josef Gruber, of Vienna, on March 31 of the present year. He was born in 1827 at Kosolup, in Bohemia, the youngest of nine sons, of parents who were of comparatively humble position, so that he made his way on the strength of his ability and industry. He studied at the gymnasium of Buda-Pesth, and then at the University of Vienna, where he is said to have been a favourite pupil of Hyrtl and Rokitsansky. He became a Doctor of Medicine in 1858. Up to the year 1860 he acted as assistant in the general hospital of Vienna, and received the rank of Privat Docent in theoretical and practical otology in the year 1863, carrying on his clinic in two little rooms in the right-hand corner of the first court of the building. He was made Extraordinary Professor in 1870, and in 1873 he became Director of the reconstructed Otological Clinic, which he carried on simultaneously with Professor Politzer. In 1896 the title of Ordinary Professor was accorded to him. He was a teacher of the first rank, and those desirous of studying otology flocked from all parts of the world to his clinic. On all sides one has heard expressions of deep admiration for the geniality, straightforwardness, and friendliness which he displayed towards those who have presented themselves to him either as students or as accredited visitors.

It is on record that, before he devoted himself to otology, he carried out some valuable original studies on various other subjects, such as "Rupture of the Bladder," "Tissue Changes arising during the Administration of Mercury," "Hæmatocele," etc.

In otology he was his own instructor, and in 1867 published a work entitled "Anatomo-physiological Studies on the Membrana Tympani and Auditory Ossicles," which Helmholtz found of great value in connection with his investigation of the mechanism of these structures.

He founded, along with Schrötter, Rüdinger, Voltolini, and Weber-Liel, the *Monatsschrift für Ohrenheilkunde*, one of the most valuable periodicals to all students of diseases of the throat, nose, and ear, in which have appeared some of the epoch-making articles in these specialities.

His large text-book on otology was published in 1870, and in 1888 there appeared a second edition, which has been translated into English by Dr. Edward Law.

Professor Gruber was a voluminous writer, and it is believed that his smaller works are no fewer than 150 in number.

Having reached, on August 4, 1897, his seventieth birthday, he retired on the score of age from his University duties; but this did not prevent him from carrying out a clinic for the benefit of the poor.

Pathetic and appreciative funeral orations were pronounced over his grave by Professor Politzer and Dr. Bing. We are sure that the regrets expressed by them at his decease, and their sympathy with the surviving members of his family, will find an echo in the hearts of the many to whom he was endeared both as teacher and friend.

D. G.

THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PURULENT NASAL DISCHARGES.*

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ALTHOUGH cases of purulent nasal discharge come chiefly under the care of the general practitioner and the nasal surgeon, they are also at times of interest to the physician, the ophthalmic surgeon and the dentist, and may therefore well form a subject for discus-

* Introductory remarks to a discussion at the Harveian Society on April 4, 1900.