

## OBITUARY

PROFESSOR COUNT GUISEPPE GRADENIGO.

(1859-1926.)

As announced in the June number of the *Journal*, Professor Gradenigo, the Italian otologist, died on the 15th March at Treviso, after a short illness. He was born in Venice on the 22nd September 1859, and in due course entered as a medical student at the University of Padua, in which his father was Professor of Ophthalmology. After taking his doctor's degree in 1883, young Gradenigo decided to specialise in diseases of the ear and throat, and for this purpose he proceeded to Vienna, Berlin, Paris, and London, in order to qualify himself in the specialty. In Vienna he came under the influence of the teaching of Gruber, Politzer and Schrötter.

On returning to his own country he commenced practice in Padua, where he obtained a teaching appointment in the Medical School. In 1889, he accepted a post in Turin, where he founded the "Ospedale Gradenigo," an institution in which he did a great deal of gratuitous work.

During the succeeding period which covered eighteen years, Gradenigo devoted himself with great assiduity to the study of his profession and firmly established his position as one of the leading members in the specialty. Amongst his numerous contributions to literature, special mention may be made of his work on the Development of the Middle Ear and on the Anomalies in the Conformation of the Auricle. He was responsible also for a very full investigation into the Bacteriology of Otitis Media; he wrote upon the Aural Manifestations of Hysteria and on Diseases of the Labyrinth and the Auditory Nerve. In 1904, he described a complication of acute otitis media which was characterised by the occurrence of intense pain in the temporal and parietal regions on the affected side, associated with paralysis of the homolateral 6th cranial nerve. The clinical picture to which he called attention became universally known as the "Gradenigo Syndrome." As a rule complete recovery follows in these cases, but sometimes death supervenes as the result of a generalised purulent lepto-meningitis. In 1890, he founded along with Professor de Rossi of Rome, the *Archivio Italiano di Otologia, Rinologia e Laringologia*, a journal which Gradenigo continued to edit up to the time of his death. In order that the work of the Italians engaged in the specialty might become more widely known, he edited along with Dr Brieger the *Centralblatt für Ohrenheilkunde*.

Gradenigo was one of the original members of the Italian Society

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of Laryngology and Otology; a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Turin, of the Venice Institute of Science and Art, and of the Royal Academies of Lucca and Bologna. He was an honorary member of several foreign Societies. He obtained the decorations of the Order of the Crown of Italy and the Crown of Rumania.

In 1917, on the death of Professor Massei, Gradenigo left Turin to become Director of the large Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Clinic of the University of Naples and the holder of the Chair. In his inaugural address he paid a tribute of gratitude to his two illustrious predecessors, Cozzolino and Massei, and recalled to his audience the brilliant otological work carried out in Naples by Domenico Cotugno, who, in 1760, was the first to propound the resonance theory of hearing, nearly a century prior to the writings of Helmholtz.

Gradenigo was a man imbued with the spirit of work. He brought to the Neapolitan School a fresh enthusiasm and stimulated the staff of the clinic to carry out research. His visits to this country were not confined to his earlier days. He was present in London at more than one Congress, at which he was a welcome and greatly esteemed guest.

A. LOGAN TURNER.

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: Historical Notes from 1505 to 1905.* By CLARENDON HYDE CRESWELL, F.S.A. (Scot.), late Officer and Sub-Librarian of the College. Privately printed for the College by Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh. 1926. Price 10s. net.

DURING the Middle Ages the surgery of the period was practised by two classes in the community, the barbers and the surgeons. The former were of more ancient origin, dating from the close of the eleventh century, when the monks were forbidden to wear beards. This enactment necessitated the training of certain of the inmates of the monasteries in the art of shaving. The clerical barber, however, learnt at the same time the practice of blood-letting, and thus he became the surgeon of the monastery and the first to specialise in surgery. The lay surgeon was a later creation, and for many years he had a less important status than his clerical brother.

The union which eventually took place between the barbers and the surgeons laid the foundation of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons; and it is not without interest to observe that, both in Edinburgh and in London, the early history of the two Colleges possessed certain features in common. In both, the alliance between the barbers and the surgeons