

GENERAL NOTES
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

SEMON LECTURE.

This annual lecture will be delivered on Thursday, October 31st, at 5 p.m., at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street. The Lecturer, Sir St Clair Thomson, has chosen as his subject "The defences of the upper respiratory tract".

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DEATH has been busy lately amongst our Colleagues in America. It is distressing to read in *The Laryngoscope*—to which we are indebted for the following particulars—of the deaths of four old friends, who frequently extended hospitality and a warm welcome to visitors from this side.

EDWARD BALDWIN GLEASON (Philadelphia)
1854-1934

Dr. Edward B. Gleason died at his home in Philadelphia, where he was born. He could trace his descent from English ancestors who had settled in Massachusetts Bay in 1636, and he had the unusual distinction of being able to claim descent from two persons who were burned as witches on the common at Salen in 1699!

Gleason was the third generation of his family to study medicine. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania; was amongst the first to do a mastoid operation; and was an outstanding teacher and a prolific writer. His *The Essential of Diseases of the Ear* was well known by students on this side forty years ago. He had many distinctions in his profession; he was a typical Philadelphian; and added lustre to the Quaker City and to his special line of practice during his long life of eighty years.

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WENDELL PHILLIPS (New York)
1857-1934

Dr. Wendell Phillips was a frequent visitor to Europe, where he was known by a practical textbook on *Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat*. He was more particularly identified with Otology, taking

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an interest in the welfare of the deaf outside the scientific study of diseases of the ear. He was long connected with the Manhattan Ear and Throat Hospital—so well known to visitors in New York,—and he died there last winter after a brief illness.

Wendell Phillips was also distinguished for his energy and influence in organizations concerned with the social welfare and harmony of our profession. He held, in succession, the office of President of many societies and, in 1926, he was honoured by the distinction—unusual for a specialist—of being President of the American Medical Association. In all these offices his handsome presence, his attractive voice and his charming personality were of great value for good in the many causes in which he was interested.

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CORNELIUS GODFREY COAKLEY (New York)

1862-1934

Cornelius Coakley was another of our Speciality who, so to speak, died on the field of battle. He succumbed in November last to a heart attack at the Presbyterian Hospital, where so many visitors from this side must have seen him at work in his well-equipped clinic.

During forty-five years of active practice, teaching and research, he became one of the most successful and one of the most respected Laryngologists in America. He was Professor of Laryngology at University and Bellevue Medical College and in Columbia University. His excellent textbook on *Diseases of the Nose and Throat*, first published in 1899, maintained its reputation through many editions. He enjoyed what used to be called a “very select practice”. This was well founded on his scientific mind, his vigour and dexterity, and his sound judgment.

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HARMON SMITH (New York)

1872-1934

No one would have imagined that Harmon Smith, with his fine physique, happy disposition and worldly success, would have died so tragically at the comparatively early age of sixty-two.

He had much of the cheerfulness and enjoyment of life which we are accustomed to associate with those who come from the Southern States. He was born in Georgia, but graduated in New York in 1897. As a young man he early made the acquaintance of this country, having been honoured by being nominated delegate at our Garcia Centenary (1905). He was long associated with the

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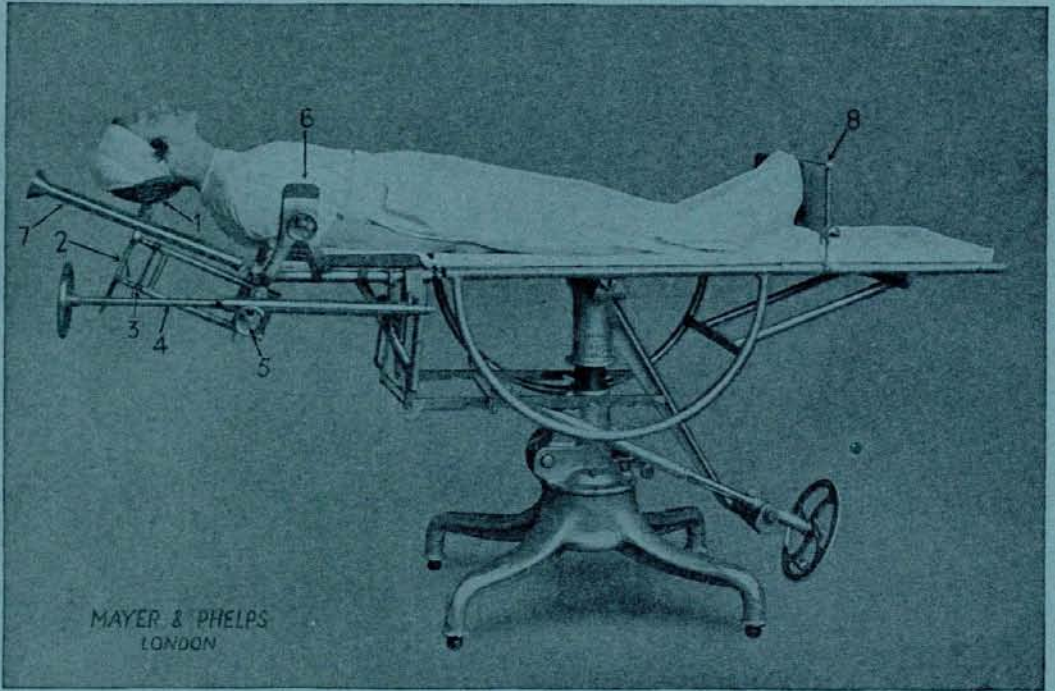
late Jonathan Wright and, from him, acquired a sound training in Pathology as well as an interest in the history and culture of medicine. He was long connected with that great school of Oto-Laryngologists—the Manhattan Ear and Throat Hospital. He early attained the distinction of being President of the American Laryngological Association. In association with Jonathan Wright—for whom he always had the affection of a devoted junior—he wrote a very successful textbook.

He was one of the most successful Laryngologists in New York and was of a most sociable disposition. With a charming wife he was liberal in his hospitality to visitors in New York. He was a man of many tastes. He was a frequent visitor to Europe and, based on his appreciation of Italian Art, he had built and furnished a beautiful home on East Sixty-Second Street, where he died.

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