

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE name of Henry Trentham Butlin is so familiar to laryngologists in connection with the work that he has done in regard to the pathology and the surgery of the larynx, that they will feel an especial pride in his election to the presidential chair by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. Mr. Butlin has received numerous academical honours, which he has honestly earned by devoted and laborious work in the interests of such institutions as the British Medical Association and the University of London. For many years he had the charge of the Throat Department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and numbers of his pupils can still bear witness as to the energy and enthusiasm which he displayed in the instruction he afforded them. To him more than to anyone else is due the evolution and perfection of the operation of thyrotomy, especially in connection with early intra-laryngeal epithelioma, the valuable effects of which have been well exemplified in the results obtained by him and by Sir Felix Semon. Among Mr. Butlin's earlier works was one on carcinoma and sarcoma of the larynx, which was a sequel to his Jacksonian prize essay on carcinoma and sarcoma in general. He was one of the earliest presidents of the Laryngological Society of London, and he has been from time to time an active participator in its clinical discussions. The members of the Society were always impressed by the well-weighed utterances of his own views and by the dignified and courteous consideration which he was ever ready to give to the views expressed by even the least experienced speakers. Those who know him best will realise best how well he is calculated to exercise a healthy influence in the presidential chair to which, we hear without surprise, his election was unanimous.

A MEMORIAL TABLET ON THE BIRTH-PLACE OF THE LATE SIR MORELL MACKENZIE.

ANY tribute to the memory of this illustrious pioneer in laryngology will be a source of gratification to laryngologists all over the world. On Monday, July 19, a tablet was placed on the house in Leytonstone where Sir Morell Mackenzie was born. The movement was initiated by the Leyton Urban Ratepayers' Association, and the unveiling of the tablet was performed, with appropriate remarks, by Mr. Morgan, formerly Member of Parliament for the Romford

Division, a well-known native of Essex, and a companion in childhood of the members of the Mackenzie family. The specialty and the medical profession in general were represented by the President of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine (Dr. Dundas Grant), Dr. Jobson Horne, Dr. Morton Mackenzie, and Dr. Panting. These gentlemen referred to the striking qualities of the man who was the subject of the memorial, not merely in his technical, but in his social relations. Dr. Morton Mackenzie expressed the gratification of the family at this tribute to the memory of his uncle.

It is regrettable that so little prominence was given in the medical press to this interesting ceremonial, as we are sure that very many of the admirers of this remarkable man would have wished to be present. We venture to express a hope that opportunities will be afforded them of showing their feelings in such a manner as to perpetuate his memory in a still more prominent way, though his numerous classical contributions towards the evolution of laryngology in this country will always remain as a monument among those who can appreciate the difficulties attending pioneer work.

CONGENITAL SYPHILITIC DISEASE OF THE EAR.

Being Part II of the Report for the year 1908 from the Ear and Throat Department of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, under the charge of Dr. A. Logan Turner.

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SINCE Hutchinson (1), in 1861, called attention to the symptoms of congenital syphilis, numerous observers have investigated the condition of congenital specific deafness, which, along with the peg-shaped notched incisor teeth and the interstitial keratitis, makes up the triad of symptoms characteristic of this disease. Hermet and Baratoux found deafness present in one third of all cases of inherited syphilis, while Hutchinson and Jackson give 10 per cent. as the proportion of cases so affected, but Bezold (2) considers these numbers much too high. This observer found that 13 out of 233 cases of acquired deaf-mutism (5·6 per cent.) were due to congenital syphilis, and places this disease next to cerebro-spinal meningitis and middle-ear suppuration as a cause of acquired deaf-