

THE
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,
RHINOLOGY AND OTOLOGY.

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**THE EDUCATION OF THE SPECIALIST IN LARYNGOLOGY,
RHINOLOGY, AND OTOLOGY.**

SINCE Dr. P. Watson-Williams in his Presidential Address at the opening of the Session 1910-1911 of the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine¹ raised the question of the education of the specialist in our particular department, interest in the subject has been rapidly growing in depth and volume both at home and abroad.

It has already formed the theme of an interesting debate in the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society,² and, if rumour speaks truly, the subject will also come up for discussion in the Laryngological Section of the British Medical Association in the present year at the forthcoming meeting at Liverpool.

In order that our readers may have an opportunity of learning how much or how little time is at present spent in the special education both of the medical student prior to graduation, a point to which Dr. W. Milligan drew attention some years ago, and also of the medical practitioner who intends to devote the whole of his energies to oto-laryngology, we have arranged for the publica-

¹ JOURN. OF LARYNGOL., RHINOL., AND OTOL., vol. xxv, p. 619.

² *Ibid.*, vol. xxvi, p. 653.

tion of a series of articles upon the subject, written by representative specialists of the most important countries of Europe and America. The first of these articles, by Dr. Tetens Hald, dealing with Denmark, appears in the present issue, and we hope to be able to publish the others in regular monthly series during the year.

THE TEACHING OF OTOTOLOGY AND LARYNGOLOGY IN DENMARK.

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IN Denmark the specialty of oto-laryngology is still striving for full recognition on the part of our University authorities. But very considerable progress has been made towards the desired goal since the days, not very long ago, when one of our leading medical journals maintained that it would not do to place beds in the planned new university hospital under the care of otologists, because it was not right to "tempt" these to perform such major operations as may become necessary in consequence of ear troubles.

Since 1906 the medical student must produce at his final examination a certificate of his having followed the oto-laryngological course provided by the university. This course consists in clinical demonstrations, exercises and theoretical lectures delivered by the university lecturer on oto-laryngology, and its length is three hours weekly for about sixteen weeks. There is no special final examination, but still the student is obliged to entertain a somewhat more than platonic interest in our specialty, as questions appertaining to the domain of otology have been set down as themes for the written examination in surgery, and otological cases may be given him for his oral clinical examination. It is, however, a sign of the Cinderella position still accorded to our specialty, that it has not been esteemed necessary to appoint to a professorship proper the instructor in oto-laryngology and the director of the oto-laryngological clinic of the university hospital ("Rigshospitalet"); he and a few others amongst the most prominent of the specialists have been personally honoured by being nominated "titular" professors.

As soon as the practitioner, on passing his final examination, has obtained the *jus practicandi*, he may, if he so decides, set up as a