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**DR. OTTO FREER AND SUBMUCOUS RESECTION OF
 THE SEPTUM.**

WE publish in this number a letter from our esteemed colleague, Dr. Otto T. Freer, of Chicago. In this communication he refers to a statement in the "Retrospect of Rhinology" published for the year 1907, which appeared in our issue of January this year, in which it is stated: "That no modification of the submucous resection (Killian) operation for the relief of septal deformities of any real importance has been suggested, and this method of procedure as originally advocated by Killian retains the popularity it so richly deserves."

We have much pleasure in placing before our readers this statement of his views, with which we thoroughly sympathise, even if we are not prepared to subscribe to them *in toto*. In so doing we do not accept any responsibility for them, but we feel certain that our readers will give anything published by Dr. Freer the respectful and careful consideration which his world-wide reputation deserves.

We should be exceedingly sorry if any views expressed in our columns should not give full credit to Dr. Freer, whose work every surgeon in our special department fully appreciates and ought to recognise. We might point out in this connection that in a review entitled "Deviation of the Nasal Septum," published in the December number of this JOURNAL, 1906, the following words occur: "To judge fairly in questions of priority is always a difficult matter, and in so doing controversy frequently results, but the

names of Freer and Killian will always be honourably associated with the operation of submucous resection. Freer admits that Killian began his work before he had done so, but at the British Medical Meeting in August, 1902, the reports of which are published in the *British Medical Journal* for that year, it was quite clear that Killian had mastered the details of the work. Freer claims that Killian's first published papers, which caused so many to follow him, were published after his. It is at least fair to say that to Freer, in America, and to Killian, on the Continent, we are mostly indebted for the present position of the operation. From this it will be seen that we have every desire to give credit where it is due, and it gives us great pleasure to repeat what has been so frankly expressed in the review referred to.

It is true that the merit of the first announcement of the essential principles of the method of the resection of the deflected cartilage and bone belongs neither to Professor Killian nor to Dr. Freer, because it was Krieg who first suggested it. It is customary to speak of Killian and Freer's operations, but in a sense it would be correct to speak of the methods of these two operators rather than of their operations. Our readers will be able to judge of Dr. Freer's claims from his own letter, and whatever inference may have been drawn from the words contained in the retrospect referred to by him we sincerely say that we should regret having said anything which would in the least detract from the credit due to him.

There can be no doubt that there is justice in Dr. Freer's claim that there has been a tendency in this country to quote the name of Killian more frequently than Freer, and it is only fair to say that the work of the latter, which was quite independent of Killian and which was published before his, should be fully recognised. There can also be no doubt he is quite right in saying: "That as soon as his work was known many of his own countrymen adopted it." Probably the truth lies in the statement that *there is room for both methods*, and Dr. Freer indicates this in the last sentence of his letter, when he states that he expects, for a long time at least, operators will only make use of his more difficult procedure for children and extreme or cicatricial deviations.

WE have much pleasure in announcing that Dr. StClair Thomson has been appointed Professor of Laryngology to King's College, London.