

Notes and gleanings

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establishment, which includes laboratories, X-ray and electro-therapeutic equipment, and through his hands pass all the important and exceptional surgery cases of the district. It thus becomes easy for him to organise through his assistants clinical demonstrations on a grand scale and to place the teaching of surgery on a systematic basis. Less fortunate surgeons visiting his clinic found Hotz teaching elementary students by means of lecture-demonstrations, in the course of which patients, museum specimens, skiagrams, and diagrams illustrating anatomy, physiology, and pathology were shown. The pressure of one button brought up a fresh blackboard or a new drawing, another excluded daylight in a few seconds, every possible dissection was ready to hand, and his voice was never drowned by the roar of traffic. His writings include useful work on abdominal emergencies and on blood transfusion, but his teaching for the most part has no record except in the careers of his assistants and pupils.

In physique Hotz was a slight, alert man of medium height, with quiet, incisive manner and unflinching sympathy both for patients and students. A visit paid to Basle three years ago by the heads of surgical units in this country gave him an opportunity for intimacy which was availed of then and since by both parties. One of the visiting surgeons writes of him as a man who exerted a good influence which could be seen and felt in all his surroundings. "Hotz was," he adds, "more than a surgeon, he was a philosopher." He played a prominent part in the life of his native city and would have served on municipal and federal councils had his strength permitted, but his work was carried on under the constant shadow of illness. Just after being appointed to the chair of surgery he had a gastric perforation which required immediate operation, and once again during his term of office he came under the surgeon's knife. On this account he forswore all enjoyments and engagements outside the work of the clinic and practised a rigid abstinence. His premature death at the age of 46 was due to the perforation for the third time of a gastric ulcer.

Prof. Hotz was happily married to Fräulein Orsolina Fanconi, of Samaden, and surgeons in many lands join in sympathy with his widow and six children.

And Switzerland mourns another of her sons who has done much to help struggling and suffering humanity a step farther towards a better and healthier age.

New Microscope Discovery.

It is the perfection of scientific apparatus that enables the scientist observers to penetrate farther and farther into the mysteries of Nature. Vide the following:—

Daily Express:—

A new age in the fight against disease will be opened if the claims of Mr. Charles Spierer, a chemical engineer of Geneva University, are substantiated.

He explained his new invention of an ultra microscope with bilateral illumination to a large audience of famous Swiss scientists and professors here last night, and obviously impressed them.

The microbes and bacteria which cause many diseases have yet to be discovered. The most powerful microscope known is quite unable to reveal them to the scientist.

Mr. Spierer says that he has confident hopes that the difficulty is now overcome. He is able with his microscope to resolve one cubic millimetre of dry collodion—smaller than a pin's head—into sixty billion infinitely small grains.

The principle of the ultra-microscope is the revelation of tiny specks in a beam of light, similar to the manner in which a sunbeam reveals dust in the air. When such a system is applied to the ordinary microscope germs and bacteria—previously invisible under the most powerful microscope—can be counted.

Mr. J. E. Barnard, who is in charge of the National Institute for Medical Research, recently demonstrated that he could obtain a magnification of 3,500 diameters, which is equivalent to multiplying an object 12½ million times. The discoveries of Mr. Spierer apparently will make possible an even greater magnification.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.		June 22	June 29	
Confederation 3% 1903	...	80.50	80.50	
" " 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	...	102.60	102.50	
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" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	102.50	102.55	
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Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	722	724
Credit Suisse	...	500	787	787
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Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	3462	3475
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	2940	2997
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	500	522
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1300	1300
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Il paese, o cittadina, n'importava poco: era abbastanza monotono, uniforme, tutto bigio, come tanti altri paesi della costa nordica; invece mi piaceva molto la sua spiaggia, specialmente dalle undici a mezzogiorno, quando c'era la bella folla dei bimbi colle loro mamma; i balli, arrivavano soltanto al venerdì sera per il "week-end" e ripartivano al lunedì mattina.

I bimbi mi davano una grande allegria: abbellivano ed improvvisavano uno strano paese sulla spiaggia; la sabbia era fina, morbida, vellutata; le ultime ondicine, levigavano ininterrottamente, e, come tanti piccoli operai, armati d'ogni sorta d'arnesi, vi scovavano pozzi alzavano ponti, perforavano "tunnels" costruivano perfino dei castelli... Voci, trilli, grida, echeggiavano dappertutto; dal mare mi pervenivano anche le risate e gli urli dei nuotatori e delle signorine che si bagnavano al sole e si rincorrevano poi, calzati dai sandalini, sulla sponda fangosa...

Pensavo che questo mare colla sua spiaggia ridente, dalla sabbia finissima, calpestata da centinaia di bambini seminudi, che cantano e ridono, innanzi a tanta vastità di cielo e acqua, che è oggi placido e come dormiente nella sua tinta grigiastra, può essere domani, andace e forte e venire sconvolto dagli acquiloni...

Vi ritornavo anche al dopopranzo; mi accomodavo al riparo del vento, in una "deck chair" e godevo la pace di quell'ora pigra "del dolce far niente"... i miei occhi erravano su quel vuoto infinito, affascinante...

Un suonatore ambulante accompagnava, con l'ardore musicale di cui è piena l'anima del popolo italiano, un tenore di strada che cantava "O sole mio"; e cantava con un languore voluttuoso, con un impeto passionale, d'arrestare l'attenzione di quella folla estiva; tutta gente gaia e frivola, che in quell'ora del pomeriggio, esce per la passeggiata, per giocare al tennis o a leggere, abbandonata sulle sedie a sdraio; vi era un andirivieni di uomini, di donne, elegantemente vestiti, che s'incontrano, non si salutano, non si sorridono... tutti forestieri, sconosciuti l'uno all'altro, venuti in quella spiaggia marittima in cerca di salute, riposo, distrazione, di romanzo forse!...

E il tenore della via, invoca il suo sole—"il mio" sole—con un impeto commovente, in cui l'antica romanza popolare par quasi che esprima la nostalgia amorosa del bel sole italico, che tutto indora, cielo, terra ed il suo mare meraviglioso!...

I miei sguardi vagavano placidamente sull'imponente, austero mare... ma non lo vedevano più il mare... non cercavano più di scoprire i suoi misteri, racchiusi nella sua profondità... vagavano oltre, al di là della sua vastità grigia, sterminata... Sognavano forse un paese seducente di beltà, di grazia, di poesia, fra il florido verde delle sue colline vicine, la maestà de'suoi monti poco lontani, la maestosità delle sue montagne cupe che confinano quasi con l'orizzonte purissimo... invocavano un viale tutto verde, sotto alberi folti che ombreggiano così fragrantemente la passeggiata bella....

...e in lontananza, come un eco, fievolemente riudivo le note del "O sole mio" che andavano morendo sui riflessi del mare....
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