SOCIETIES' PROCEEDINGS

THE SCOTTISH OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE eighty-first (Jubilee) meeting of the Society was held in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on Saturday, November 12th, 1960, the President, Dr. Forbes M. Walker in the Chair.

Dr. Douglas Guthrie read a paper on the history of the Society entitled "Looking back on fifty years", in which he traced its progress since the initial meeting in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on November 11th, 1910. He mentioned many of the personalities prominent in the specialty and in the affairs of the Society in these early days and showed a series of lantern slides depicting the early Chairmen and some of the presidents. He pointed out that of the thirty-one original members who formed the Society in 1910 only one was still with us, and he expressed pleasure that Dr. R. P. Mathers of Dundee had consented to be the next President during the Jubilee Year.

Following Dr. Guthrie's paper a short clinical part of the meeting involved the demonstration and discussion of twelve cases and some exhibits.

Dr. A. Brownlie Smith showed a case of otosclerosis where different methods of stapedectomy and reconstruction were used in each ear owing to the different pathology around the two footplates, and in the subsequent discussion Dr. A. Gibb stressed the need for a detailed description of the microscopic appearances in this region in the records of all cases in order that the best procedure in different types of the disease may be determined. Dr. Smith also showed a case of carcinoma occurring in a radical mastoid cavity, treated with the linear accelerator, and it was pointed out in discussion that these cases did not seem to be as rare as might be thought and that the possibility should be borne in mind when granulations developed.

A further patient demonstrated by Dr. Smith suffered from recurring carcinoma of the larynx for which laryngofissure had been carried out twice since 1946. Keratosis of the reformed cord had developed into carcinoma, and after a further recurrence he was now being treated by radiotherapy. In the ensuing discussion Dr. I. M. Farquharson pointed out that in many cases where malignancy develops from keratosis irradiation seems to be detrimental, and he recalled such a case where radiotherapy was followed by a very rapid increase in the growth and the glands.

Dr. Farquharson showed a case of leucoderma affecting the vestibule of the nose and the discussion centred round the possible cause of the condition. Dr. Brownlie Smith suggested, in view of a previous case which he had known, that the use of a paraffin ointment might be responsible and he had elicited the fact that the present patient had been in the habit of using a considerable amount of Mentholatum.

A case of otosclerosis treated by stapedectomy followed by a fat graft and

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steel wire prosthesis was shown by Dr. B. H. Colman. He pointed out that the procedure had certain advantages over the more usual vein graft operation. It was technically easier and experimentally the fat was associated with less scarring round the oval window than the vein grafts. The steel wire was also easier to use than polythene in cases where the oval window was partially obscured.

Dr. Colman also showed a case of atrophic rhinitis where nasal narrowing had been carried out by inserting acrylic plaques by the sublabial approach. Various members contributed to a discussion on the different methods of treatment which might be tried in this condition, and Mr. R. Scott Stevenson reported an outstanding improvement in three such cases following the topical instillation into the nose of hydrocortisone and chloromycetin eye drops.

Dr. R. B. Lumsden showed the prototype of a new apparatus for ultrasonic therapy in Ménière's disease, and also a series of coloured slides to show the changes in the labyrinth of cats at different stages of treatment.

Dr. Colman showed a series of photomicrographs to illustrate the behaviour of various types of graft tissue in the oval window, the results of which had led him to think that fat was the tissue of choice.

Following the clinical part of the meeting Dr. R. P. Mathers of Dundee, an original founding member, was elected President of the Society. In the evening a Commemorative Dinner in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh was attended by members and their guests. Professor John Bruce, C.B.E., P.R.C.S.Ed., proposed the health of the Society and Dr. Mathers replied. Among the guests were Mr. J. P. Monkhouse and Mr. J. H. Otty, Presidents of the Sections of Otology and of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and Mr. T. G. Wilson, P.R.C.S.I.

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