

**LESSONS IN LARYNGOSCOPY  
AND RHINOSCOPY; INCLUDING  
THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT  
OF DISEASES OF THE THROAT  
AND NOSE**

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Lessons in Laryngoscopy and Rhinoscopy; Including the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Throat and Nose by Prosser James

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**DISEASES OF THE THROAT AND NOSE.**

BY

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ETC., ETC.



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## P R E F A C E .

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ALTHOUGH the present edition has been called for much earlier than was anticipated by the author, it has been carefully revised throughout, and some new engravings added.

Profiting by the suggestion of a friendly reviewer that some of the directions on Diagnosis might seem almost too condensed for beginners, the descriptions of the morbid appearances observed in the laryngoscope have been considerably amplified.

The section on Anterior Rhinoscopy has been expanded, and numerous other additions made to the work, part of which has been re-written.

On the other hand, the account of the History of Laryngoscopy has been curtailed by the omission of *Garcia's paper*, which appeared in full in previous issues; as, since attention was thus prominently

drawn to his claims, they have been generally admitted, and in 1877 they were publicly recognised by the presentation of a Testimonial.

These and other alterations will, it is hoped, render the present edition as useful to students and practitioners as its predecessors.

PROSSER JAMES.

3 DEAN STREET, PARK LANE,  
*May, 1879.*

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# LESSONS IN LARYNGOSCOPY.

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## I

### APPARATUS.

Laryngoscopy. Early use of Mirrors by Dentists. Reflected Light. Shapes of Laryngeal Mirrors. Supports of Reflectors. The Light. Forms of Lamps. Direct Light. Concentrators. Accessories. Tongue Depressors, &c.

LARYNGOSCOPY (*Λάρυγγε σκοπία*) is the art of examining the interior of the larynx. This is accomplished by means of a mirror sometimes called the laryngoscope, but this name is more usually assigned to the complete apparatus used to obtain a view of the larynx.

It is obvious that a dark cavity situated in such a position as the organ of voice can only be seen in the living person by the aid of a reflector. In fact, in the practice of laryngoscopy we do not look at the interior of the larynx itself but at its image in a mirror.

The laryngoscope, then, is only a contrivance to enable us, so to say, to see round a corner, and it is a little remarkable, considering the length of time that reflectors have been employed for similar purposes, that physicians should not long ago have availed themselves of the same principle.

In its very simplest form the laryngoscope may be said to exist in the mirrors used by dentists, and indeed the earliest efforts at laryngoscopy consisted in the use of such mirrors mounted on a long handle.

The difficulty was so to place the patient as to allow sufficient light to fall upon the mirror, and practically this was not attained until a second mirror was used to reflect the rays and direct them upon the first.

This was essentially the starting point of laryngoscopy. Nevertheless, the simpler method of utilising the direct rays of light involves the principle of the laryngoscope, and those who persevered in the attempt thus to obtain a view of the larynx are entitled to the credit of having in some degree contributed to the progress of the art.

A second great step in advance was the employment of artificial light, for this being always at command experiments could be carried on at any hour and in any room.

As soon as this step was taken the modern laryngoscope may be said to have been completed; for the many variations in the shape of the mirrors, the mode of supporting the reflector or the lamp, can scarcely claim to do more than render the apparatus more convenient.

This brings us to a consideration of the several forms of laryngoscope in common use. To describe them it is necessary to take each portion separately.

The most important part of the apparatus—the laryngoscope itself, so to say—is the faucial or laryngeal mirror, as it is designated. It consists of a plane reflector mounted on a long stem. It may therefore be made of silvered glass, of burnished steel, or of any other good reflecting surface. Steel, however, is very apt to rust, and ordinary looking-glass is therefore most commonly used. Figs. 1, 2, 3.

The shape of these mirrors has been discussed with some gravity, but is a matter of little importance. Some prefer them round, others think square, with the corners rounded, more convenient. Others maintain oval ones to be best. It is easy to see with either.

*Where the tonsils are enlarged an oblong shape may be essential, and in a few other cases it is very convenient.*

The shape of the stem is equally a point of little importance. The mirrors may be mounted on a handle, similar to an ordinary pen-holder, or they may be furnished with any other stem. Square mirrors are preferred by many French authorities, but round ones are more commonly used in England.



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.