THE DISEASES OF THE EAR, THEIR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. A TEXT-BOOK OF AURAL SURGERY, IN THE FROM OF ACADEMICAL LECTURES

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The diseases of the ear, their diagnosis and treatment. A text-book of Aural Surgery, in the from of academical lectures by Anton Von Tröltsch

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ANTON YON TRÖLTSCH

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DISEASES OF THE EAR,

THEFT

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

A TEXT-BOOK OF AURAL SURGERY

IN THE FORM OF ACADEMICAL LECTURES.

Friedrich, Freiherr

DR. ANTON VON TROLTSCH,
Anral Surgeon and Lecturer in the University, in Würzburg, Bavaria-

D. B. ST. JOHN ROOSA, M.D.,

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THIS TRANSLATION

Es Mempertfully Bedicated to

ALFRED C. POST, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF SURCERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, CONSULTING SURGEON TO THE NEW YORK AND HT. LINK'S HOSPITARS,

Who, besides his useful labors in the field of General Medicine, has accomplished much for Aural Surgery, and to whose qualities as a teacher, surgeon, and a mac this grateful testimony is borne by his obliged friend and former

PUPIL.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE work of presenting to the American Medical public a new book on the Diseases of the Ear, was undertaken, because it was believed that there existed a need for it.

The most prominent of the Text-Books, which have obtained a circulation in the United States, are those of Krawer, of Berlin, ITARD and MENIERE, of Paris, TOYNBEE and WILDE, respectively of London and Dublin. The works of the latter named, and especially that of Wilde, have found the most favor.

Wilde's book has been out of print for some time, and there is no immediate prospect of a new edition. This is to be regretted, for probably no book has done so much for the advancement of its object as this production of a distinguished aural and oph-

thalmic surgeon.

Toynbee has achieved so much for the only basis of all scientific and real progress in aural surgery, pathological anatomy, that we can but be grateful to him, although his book, rich in materials, seems to lack many of the requirements of a text-book for the

general practitioner.

Kramer's work was translated years ago, and we are indebted to it as being one of the successful pioneers in the way, now comparatively well trodden. Since then the author's views have been very much modified, and the last edition, " Die Ohrenheilkunde der Gegenwart, Berlin, 1862," lately translated under the auspices of the New Sydenham Society, would hardly be recognized as a lineal descendant of the first. This testifies at once to the honesty of, and progress in, the author's opinions.

Through the extreme courtesy of Dr. Kramer, while in Berlin, I had the opportunity of seeing a good deal of his large private practice, and the pleasure of hearing his peculiar views at some length.

I also saw somewhat of the practice of Dr. Erhard, Aural Surgeon and Lecturer in the University of Berlin, author of "Kli nische Otiatrie, Berlin, 1863." This is not the place to enter into any discussion as to the views of these authors, as compared with those of Von Tröltsch, whose book I am now presenting. The fact of the labor I have been at, shows sufficiently my belief in the scientific character of the book, and of its adaptability to the wants of our profession.

This work, if indeed the rendering into English shall not have proved a failure, will tell its own story, and will stand or fall by its own claims. Some few additions made by the translator will be

found inclosed in parentheses.

I believe aural surgery to be a comparatively neglected field, and my own experience has already been ample enough to show that a very much larger number of very chronic cases come to the surgeon's eye than in other branches of our art; consequently, we cannot expect the same therapeutic results, as for instance, in Ophthalmology, and our reward for labor cannot just now be the dazzling one that falls to the lot of successful practitioners in other departments; but if we but succeed in waking up the profession to the curability of recent ear cases, and to the fallacy of the idea of outgrowing these affections, perhaps our work will be done. "Arbores seret diligens agricola, quarum adspiciet baccam ipse nunquam."

Without any responsibility for the truth of Dr. Von Tröltsch's opinions, his work is presented as one founded on pathological investigation, and ample experience, and as containing some views, which, so far as I know—and I hope reviewers will note this expression—are not to be found in any other book. His method of illuminating the external ear, is, I believe, altogether the best in use, and one which must commend itself to every one who has found the difficulties of the previously known methods. The lecture on "Purulent Catarrh of the Middle Ear, as occurring in Infants," is one that calls attention in a striking way to some loose habits of diagnosis.

I shall be personally indebted to any gentleman, who has opportunities for post-mortem examination of the infant subject, for the results of any researches in this direction. I am committed irrevocably to no opinions in the practice of aural surgery, except that much may be done to advance its position, and from the opportunities afforded in the bi-weekly clinic in the Eye Infirmary in this city, now conducted by Dr. Hinton and myself, but which was founded by Dr. C. R. Agnew, and successively sustained by his colleagues, Drs. Bumstead, Hinton, and Noyes, I hope to be able to add a testimony of some value for or against doctrines, which are now presented to the profession in these United States.

I have in this place to express my obligations to the rare scholarship of Mr. Alfred A. Post, and to my friend Doctor Henry D. Noyes, for some aid in correcting the proofs, and valuable suggestions of a general character.

D. B. St. John Roosa.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1864.