THE CASE OF HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

By SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, M.D.

HIS Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Germany having expressed his wish that I should now place on record my opinion of his case, the opportunity is afforded of correcting some of the statements which from time to time have been inaccurately attributed to me.

The general idea is that I am of opinion that the disease from which HIS Imperial Highness is suffering is not cancer; the view on the other hand, which I have consistently maintained is, that there never has been any proof of the existence of cancer.

To enter more into detail: When I arrived in Berlin, last May, I stated to my colleagues that, in my opinion the appearances seen in the throat were of a negative character, that is to say, that the disease might be either benign or malignant, and that its nature could only be determined by microscopical examination. A portion of the diseased tissue having been taken away by me from the throat of HIS Imperial Highness, it was submitted to Professor Virchow, who could not detect in it anything of a malignant nature. Repeated examinations by Professor Virchow of other portions removed by me yielded similar results.

In the month of July, whilst HIS Imperial Highness was staying in the Isle of Wight, I pointed out to more than one of his august relatives that the danger that I most dreaded was the occurrence of perichondritis at a future date, and three months later this fear was proved to be well grounded. At the end of October and early part of November entirely fresh symptoms appeared, and at that time the local disease presented an appearance which was consistent with the diagnosis of cancer. It was then impossible to obtain any fresh microscopical evidence in the matter, and I considered it safer accordingly to treat the case as one of a malignant nature; at the same time, however, I drew up and submitted to my colleagues a *protocol*, in which I stated that although the disease at that moment looked like cancer, I could not agree that the malady was proved to be malignant until a further microscopical examination had been made. The document in which I set forth my views was forwarded to Berlin to be placed in the State Archives. Although the unfavourable symptoms then present were explicable on the ground of the existence of cancer, yet it was clear to the majority of the physicians at that time in attendance that perichondritis had supervened.

In the middle of December, however, the unfavourable signs had passed away, and there were no longer any clinical symptoms of cancer. Microscopical evidence on the subject was, however, still wanting. This was furnished at the end of January, when a slough was expectorated from the very spot which had presented such a highly suspicious appearance in November. This slough was most carefully and repeatedly examined by Professor Virchow, and the result (which is now published) again shows that cancer could not be detected.

To recapitulate: In my opinion the clinical symptoms have always been entirely compatible with non-malignant disease, and the microscopical signs have been in harmony with this view. I need only add that although in nearly every case of laryngeal disease it is possible at the first inspection to form an accurate opinion as to the nature of the disease presenting itself, yet, in a few rare instances, the progress of the complaint alone permits its character to be determined. Unfortunately, the case of HIS Imperial Highness is among the latter number, and at this

moment medical science does not permit me to affirm that any other disease is present than chronic interstitial inflammation of the larynx combined with perichondritis.

San Remo, February 12th, 1888.

REPORT OF EXAMINATION OF THE SLOUGH FROM THE LARYNX OF HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

ON the morning of the 26th of January, 1888, Dr. Wegener brought me a sealed box with a letter dated 23rd from Dr. Schrader from San Remo. It was accompanied by a report, dated January 17th, from Dr. Krause respecting a large piece of tissue which had been expectorated on the same day from the larynx of H. I. H. The Crown Prince.

The portion sent was the whole of the matter expectorated, with the exception of six small particles removed by Dr. Krause for examination in the fresh state. The piece of tissue was in a sealed bottle containing absolute alcohol. In addition to the large portion referred to, there were also two other separate and somewhat harder pieces—a larger and a smaller. The former, according to Dr. Krause, was originally a part of the principal mass. The examination offered great difficulties, the nature of which could not have been anticipated, either from the form or the appearance of the pieces submitted for investigation.

The large mass greatly resembled certain portions of imperfectly masticated pieces of meat, which are sometimes rejected in vomiting after being swallowed. This view seemed to derive support from the presence here and there of small yellow and brownish particles of fine cellular vegetable structure, and from the existence in the innermost portion of the large piece (expectorated) of an abundance of elastic fibres.

In consideration, however, of the very precise information conveyed by Dr. Krause to the effect that the substance had been observed before its separation (from the larynx) extending from beneath the left ventricular band from the middle to the anterior angle, and also below the glottis, and even extending round below the anterior part of the right vocal cord, there could be no doubt, on further examination, that we had to deal with a large slough spontaneously separated from the inner surface of the larynx, and not with a purely exudative (fibrinous) mass.

In the substance which, according to the report of Dr. Krause, when first expectorated, measured $3\frac{1}{2}$ centimètres in length, whilst at the thinner end it was half a centimètre in width (its thickness being 4 millimètres), and at the thicker end one centimètre wide, a small smooth semicircular spot in the long diameter of the substance could be seen. All the rest of the surface was occupied by long and very closely arranged fibres. Although there was no epithelium on the smooth spot, and no glands beneath it, it cannot be doubted that this was the free surface of the mucous membrane. For beneath it could be seen microscopically a thin layer of almost homogeneous connective tissue, and a great mass of elastic fibres. Beneath this, there was, deeper down, a very thick layer, consisting especially of tubules with granular amorphous contents. From this thick layer originated the long fibres observed with the naked eye. It was not once possible to recognise in these tubular layers any transverse stripes, but they seemed to contain only amorphous matter, in which, on more minute examination, numerous micrococci were found. Here and there numerous but very small clear brown bodies, or crystal-like deposits, were observed. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that these tubular layers and fibres are primitive muscular fasciculi which, through a necrotic process, have been destroyed.

The slough must therefore be regarded as a necrotic and decomposed part of the larynx, which in parts has been separated from the surface to a depth of 4 millimètres. The very rich muscular structure could only be attributed to the thyro-arytenoid muscle.

I could not determine what kind of morbid process had caused the gangrene, nor what kind of process had produced the demarcation and exfoliation of the substance. Neither pus-corpuses nor granulation-cells could be distinguished; and, in fact, in most places there was nothing of a heterogenous nature to be discovered. Only in the larger (of the two smaller pieces) which had been cut off the main mass by Dr. Krause from a somewhat hard spot, and which had the form of a flat wart on section, with the

¹ In this statement the words "cancer," "cancerous," and "malignant," are used synonymously.

naked eye a central whiter and an external and opaque rather thick covering could be distinguished.

In every microscopic section so-called nests (*zwiebeln*) of epidermoidal cells, for the most part of homogeneous character, were seen. As a rule these nest-cells were in the most external layer, or in that lying immediately beneath it. The external layer had also most likely consisted of an epidermoidal formation, though these cells could only be here and there partially distinguished.

I could not find epidermoidal cells in the deep parts, and distinctly isolated alveoli were nowhere to be discovered, in spite of assiduous researches.

These examinations will be continued, and if any further result is obtained I will send a report instantly.

(Signed) RUDOLF VIRCHOW,

Director of the Pathological Institute, Berlin.

January 29th, 1888.

We are informed by Sir Morell Mackenzie, who has forwarded the above translation to us, that Professor Virchow has since sent several private letters, in which, however, he has not been able to add anything to his original report. Nevertheless, he remarks that he has not found any cartilage in any portion of the slough.

THE BRITISH NURSES ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING in furtherance of the aims and objects of the British Nurses Association, was held on Monday last, at St. George's Hall, Langham Place, at which the Princess Christian, of Schlesweg-Holstein, the President of the Association, was present. The chair was taken by Mr. Savory, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, who was supported by Sir Henry Acland, Dr. Quain, Sir Joseph Lister, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Mr. John Marshall, Sir Douglas Powell, Mr. Brudenell Carter, Sir Joseph Fayrer, Mr. Gant, Dr. Norman Moore, Miss Mollett, Miss Stewart (St. Bartholomew's), and other matrons of metropolitan hospitals, together with a large gathering of representatives of the nursing profession.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, in opening the proceedings, said: I have been asked to say a few words to open this meeting, a meeting of which the importance and interest cannot be overrated. We are met together to-day to lay the foundation stone of an Association, which should not be inferior to any other great institution of this kingdom. I said lay the foundation stone, but that is already laid. We have, rather, come together to enlist the public sympathy and support in furthering it, in building it up. The British Nurses Association seeks to unite in common action all who are engaged in doing woman's highest and noblest work, namely, that of nursing the sick. The first object of the Association is to obtain for the calling of nursing the recognised position and legal constitution of a profession which shall from henceforth be inseparable from the noble profession of medicine. It will follow from this, that in the future every member of the nursing profession must have been educated up to a definite standard of knowledge and efficiency. The importance of this guarantee to the public cannot be overestimated. Another object is to enable the members of the Association to assist each other in illness or old age. But the British Nurses Association has also a deeper, a wider, and a grander meaning. I believe it is the first example of a large number of women combining together, not only to help their overworked or weaker sisters, but also to further and advance their calling, and to raise their work to a higher level than it has hitherto held. If the Association be successful—and its success now depends mainly on the united efforts of the nurses themselves—who can foretell where the influence of their example will end? It will perhaps be the means of showing women in other walks of life that they, too, can combine successfully for the manifest advantage of themselves, their fellow workers, and society in general, in a united striving after higher things. I should like to say how much I feel personally the great honour which has been done me in your allowing me to become a fellow worker in this great movement, and I will conclude with some words which seem to me to embody the true spirit of nursing. They are:—

"Perfect service rendered, duties done,
In charity, soft speech, and stainless days,
These riches shall not fade away in life,
Nor any death dispraise."

The CHAIRMAN said the cause they had at heart was so good and strong that it needed no advocacy to commend it to the acceptance of all. Even those who thought lightly of doctors

were able to appreciate good nursing, and who, when illness came upon him, dreamed of refusing such help? In no department of their art had there been a more signal advance than in that of nursing. Some of them were old enough to remember by what class of persons the nursing in their wards and sickrooms was formerly carried on—the lineal descendants of the old hospital nurse, as she was called. Those of them who could remember these and knew what our wards and sickrooms were now might perhaps realise the vast improvement which had been effected. He who watched most closely would be able to appreciate most fully the debt they owed to good nursing. For many years their faith in drugs and specific remedies had gradually declined, while they had learned to attach more importance to matters of hygiene and to good nursing. The time had come when some definite organisation should be established for those who devoted themselves to the duties of nursing. In the first place, a system of registration by a body of competent authorities would secure a simple guarantee to all that those whose names appeared on the register were duly qualified for their work. It would accomplish for nurses what the registration of the medical profession secured for them, and they and those ladies who were at the head of their department would see that the character and credentials of the Association were such that no question could be raised with regard to its competency or worthiness. Such an Association, by the judicious distribution of distinctions, might do very much to increase excellence and to bring to the front those who were best qualified to help and advise others. As in the church, in the law, and in medicine, by a recognised course of study and by examination, security was given to the public that those who offered their services were at least in some degree qualified for the work, so in the case of nurses for the sick should the public look for such evidences of character and education as that Association would be able to offer. With all his heart he said God speed the Association, might it prosper as it deserved to do. The loyal and devoted work which the nurses did had been recognised by the Queen; her recent gift had expressed her sympathy with their work.

SIR DYCE DUCKWORTH moved the first resolution: "That this meeting, desiring to express its cordial sympathy with the British Nurses Association, pledges itself to support the Association by every means in its power, and urges upon all nurses in the United Kingdom who are eligible for membership that they should join the Association for the sake of promoting the advancement of their profession." He regarded the present meeting as very strong evidence that the whole body of nurses, and those who were interested in their career and good work, were not satisfied with things as they were, and that, therefore, it was intended that something should be done to put those good women who were engaged in that useful work in a better position, for the benefit of both themselves and the public. It was now difficult to give a definition of what was meant by a "trained nurse." When that Association was set on foot that difficulty would no longer exist. He thought it would certainly be one of the duties of the Association to lay down the conditions of education, and to instruct the public as to what was meant by a "trained nurse." He had no doubt that in the future a three years' curriculum would be required for a trained nurse. He regarded nurses as units, who would be better for a little cohesion; by cohesion and co-operation very great benefit might be derived, both for the sick and the public. Such an institution as they were proposing to build up could only be carried on and regulated by those who understood the work best. They believed it was not a work in which the laity could take any active, if any, part at all, for the work required very special knowledge. By the adoption of a register the public would be able to distinguish those nurses who were thoroughly trained from those who were not. Those not accepted by the Association might be safely taken as inefficient and imperfectly trained. The time, he thought, had come when they might fairly stand by themselves. He would urge the nurses very strongly to come forward and enrol themselves in the Association, because he could not conceive under any circumstances whatever, either now or at any future time, that such an opportunity as now existed would present itself again.

MR. BRUDENELL CARTER seconded the resolution, which was supported by Dr. MATTHEWS DUNCAN and by Dr. NORMAN MOORE, who reminded them that the attempt had been made before under much less auspicious circumstances in the year 1834, when the then existing nurses of London endeavoured to become incorporated to the College of Physicians, having a very powerful advocate in Dr. Peter Chamberlain. They were at that time an un-

educated and almost untrained body, and they were then unable to secure the support of the College of Physicians.

Miss WOOD (the Secretary) said they all knew what a large number of people were pressing into the nursing profession, and it seemed necessary that they should have some means of distinguishing between those who were suitable and those who were not. No such guarantee was at present afforded by the hospitals, as sometimes nurses went out without sufficient training, and called themselves "trained nurses." Nurses who had been properly trained wished to band themselves together to promote the advancement of their profession. The way in which that would be done would be, of course, a matter to be considered in detail as time went on. No nurse would bear the name of a trained nurse until she had been in training for a period of three years; as to that she thought they would have a consensus of medical opinion. They did not want to make it in any way a trades union; they had no idea of dictating terms of contract between employer and employed. What they aimed at was that when the nurse went forth to do her work she should do so as a trained nurse, and for that object they were seeking to obtain a charter which would give them the legal right to register nurses after examination either by their own hospital or a central body. Having satisfied the leading members of the medical profession, and of the nursing profession, that they knew by practice as well as by theory what they professed, they would then be registered, and have the right to practise as nurses. The Association would not interfere with hospital custom, but they did intend, as far as possible, to prevent nurses who were insufficiently trained going out to nurse in private families as "trained nurses." The public were not yet educated in the matter of nursing. She concluded by urging all nurses to come forward and make the Association what it ought to be, a very great success.

Mr. CROSS and Miss MOLLETT having spoken, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir HENRY ACLAND, in proposing a vote of thanks to Princess Christian for accepting the presidency of the Association and for the active interest and work she was devoting to its progress, recalled the fact that Her Royal Highness was the translator of Esmarch's *First Aid to the Sick and Wounded*, and spoke of the great interest shown by her in the work of nurses and in nursing institutions, referring also to the great national association organised by her sister in Germany for that great purpose. They were at the present meeting responding to that splendid national sentiment which would raise one of the grandest monuments to the greatest monarch of England, who had decided that that magnificent gift which the nation had given to her should be given back to assuage the sickness and sorrows of the people under their care.

Dr. QUAIN seconded the vote of thanks, which was heartily accorded.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Sir JOSEPH FAYRE and seconded by Dr. DOUGLAS POWELL, closed the proceedings.

DEGREES FOR LONDON MEDICAL STUDENTS.

PETITIONS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

THE PETITION OF WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

(In Support of the Petition of the Association for Promoting a Teaching University.)

THE following petition has been signed by the majority of the teachers at Westminster Hospital School, and forwarded to the Privy Council.

We, the undersigned teachers of the Westminster Hospital Medical School, and members of the staff of the Westminster Hospital, respectfully beg to lay before the most Honourable Privy Council, the following reasons, in so far as they concern the medical faculty, in support of the petition now before the said Council from the Association for Promoting a Teaching University in London.

1. We fully admit the necessity which exists for providing a medical degree for students of the metropolitan medical schools on conditions less restrictive and less prohibitive than those at present imposed by the University of London.

2. We are of opinion that in any plan proposed to meet this need there should be an intimate association of the teaching and examining functions; both being directly controlled by the same

governing body. In such way do we conceive that the true principles of a university are to be satisfied.

3. We regard the proposal made by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons as the least satisfactory way of meeting the acknowledged requirements; since it maintains only an indirect association of the teaching and examining functions, and would merely confer the title of university on an examining board. Such a plan we feel sure would not provide a satisfactory medical degree, nor one that would be valued as it should by possessors, although we fully recognise the excellent general character of the present examinations of the said board for qualifying purposes.

4. We are of opinion that either the proposal of the Association for Promoting a Teaching University in London, or that of the University and King's Colleges, now before the Privy Council, would satisfy the requirements, and by associating together the various teaching bodies, properly qualified, would establish a university that would be real, and not one in name only; offering also the opportunity for compelling some general training in arts, which is in almost universally accepted accordance with the spirit of a university degree, and is virtually disregarded by the proposal of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

5. Having regard to the legitimate interests of existing medical schools, we are of opinion that the objects sought will be best attained by the plan proposed by the Association for Promoting a Teaching University in London.

THE PETITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

(In Opposition to the Petition of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.)

ON February 15th, the Convocation of the University of Oxford resolved by ninety-eight votes to thirty-four to affix the seal of the University to a petition against a proposal now before the Queen in Council for conferring upon a Senate of the College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons the power of granting medical degrees to persons qualified under the Medical Act. The petition objects that these titles should be conferred only on those who have undergone a preparatory education in literature and science, and whose proficiency in these subjects has been tested by examination. It points out that Oxford medical degrees are conferred only upon Bachelors of Arts. Professor PRICE explained that University College and King's College, London, had presented similar petitions. The Regius Professor of Medicine, Sir Henry ACLAND, urged that the two great medical Colleges might surely be trusted to take such steps as were best for the profession. It was a mistake to suppose that culture was not provided for nor tested.

THE PETITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

OUR Cambridge correspondent telegraphs that the petition to the Privy Council against the scheme of the Royal Colleges passed the Senate on Thursday without a dissentient voice. No discussion takes place on such occasions. The common seal of the University was duly affixed.

It is stated to be the intention of the members of the West Herts Medical Association to invite Dr. C. E. SAUNDERS, Medical Officer of Health for the Combined Districts of Middlesex and Hertfordshire, to a dinner, on his retiring from that official connection, as a mark of respect and regard, and an acknowledgment of the efficient manner in which he has performed his duties for a period of fourteen years.

LADY DUFFERIN'S FUND.—The third annual meeting in connection with Lady Dufferin's Female Medical Aid Fund was held at Calcutta on February 8th. The Viceroy presided. Among the speakers were the Governor of Madras, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Maharajah of Durbunga, and the Nawab of Moorshedabad. A resolution was passed that the Association should be incorporated. The report showed that the financial position was highly satisfactory, and that the Association now possesses investments giving an annual income of 30,000 rupees.

BEQUESTS.—By the will of the late Miss J. A. PETERSON, Cum-bernauld House, the following legacies have been paid by the trustees:—The Glasgow Royal Infirmary and the Western Infirmary, £1,000 each; Association for the Relief of Incurables, £200; the Maternity Hospital and a number of other charities in Glasgow not medical, £50 each.