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INC.

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SCIENTIFIC SESSION

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1961

The Ninety-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Otological Society, Inc., held at the Lake Placid Club, Essex County, New York, convened at eight forty-five o'clock, Dr. Henry L. Williams, President of the Society, presiding.

PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I now declare the Ninety-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Otological Society open. I first have a very pleasant duty to perform, the introduction of my Guest of Honor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the American Otological Society, it is my privilege to present to you as Guest of Honor of the American Otological Society the man to whom I owe much and whose kindness to a struggling young otologist I shall never forget. It is not because of this, however, that I have asked him to grace this platform but because, almost single-handedly, he rescued otology from that oblivion which caused our friends in other fields to exhibit their histrionic ability while mourning at the bier of the extinct specialty.

It is true that many men had dreamed of the surgical restoration of hearing in conduction loss, especially that owing to otosclerosis. Bárány, Holmgren and Sourdille had made increasingly successful efforts at developing an effective surgical technique, but it was not until Julius Lempert found a practical solution to the problem that it became feasible for skillful and well-trained otologists to venture into the field of surgery for the restoration of defective auditory function.

In introducing his technique to otology, he overthrew that tradition of secrecy and covert revelation which still dogs our colleagues in the field of rhinology by freely offering his instruction to all teaching otologists.

This signalled the beginning of an era in otology.

As a result of his successful operations, our colleagues in the laboratories began their earnest efforts, at first to explain the successes but later to broaden our knowledge of the physiologic function of the hearing mechanism. Had it not been for the success of the Lempert fenestration technique, it would not have been possible to present a forward-looking program such as we have this year.

Although he has tended to deny paternity and disallow his brain child an honest name, he also presented to us the tympanotomy technique, which by a marvel of serendipity has led on to the plastic procedures on the stapes and indirectly to those on the membrana tensa and cavum tympani.

I feel that we are only at the beginning of this era of development which may well lead to triumphs beyond the scope of my imagination.

Therefore, in Dr. Julius Lempert appearing as our guest, I feel that the honor we do him is pale in comparison to that which he does us.

Dr. Lempert, would you like to address a few words to the assembled multitude?

DR. JULIUS LEMPERT: To Dr. Williams, our President, and to all the members of the American Otological Society, I wish to express my thanks for the tribute you have paid me. I shall always remember with pride the recognition I received in 1953 when I was awarded the Gold Medal of this Society.

Now at this Ninety-fourth Annual Meeting, I am deeply touched to have been chosen Guest of Honor. Thank you all very much.

PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I have a communication here from Dr. Howard House, who, as you know, has been sequestered in England where he has given the Semon Lecture.

"Sorry I cannot be present to join you in honoring your teacher and mine, Dr. Julius Lempert. Certainly no one in the history of our specialty has contributed so much."

It was very kind of Dr. House to remember us in the midst of his own honors.

There are other distinguished guests present: Dr. Hans Engström and Dr. Kenard Anderson of Göteborg, Dr. Julius Dohlman of Lund, Sweden, Dr. Faaborg-Andersen of Denmark, and Dr. Jose Hebito and Dr. Enrico Vincennes of Puerto Rico.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

HENRY L. WILLIAMS, M.D.

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

Our distinguished guest of honor, Dr. Julius Lempert, distinguished guests, members of the American Otological Society:

I wish that I had words to adequately express my deep feeling of appreciation for the honor the society has done me in asking me to preside over this, the ninety-fourth annual meeting of the world's oldest and most distinguished group of otologists. Old, I mean, in tradition, and distinguished because of its position in the van of our advancing specialty.

When I considered the long line of outstanding men who have preceded me in this office, it seemed to me that I must be the lucky victim of a happy accident. It seemed impossible that my presence on this platform could lend the dignity required.

Since I was assured, however, that I was actually President, I realized that I must do my best to arrange for a program which, in so far as possible, would present to my fellow members the best that I could obtain of those efforts which seem to me to be at the advancing frontier of otology.

As you have seen by the program, these are efforts to discover some of the fundamentals of our specialty. I do not intend to imply by this selection that I believe the pursuit of knowledge to be a pre-occupation superior to the attempt to relieve human ills as do those who refer to "mere practitioners." I continue to consider research a means rather than an end, and I do not consider the piling up of titles to be a valuable contribution, however it is rated behind the ivied walls.

I intend the program, therefore, to indicate my belief that without competent and fruitful research, otology will be as a plant cut off at the root or as a leaf withering on the vine.