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*As we approach the Millennium I thought it would be interesting to see what our forebears were writing about 100 years ago. The Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology was then published by Rebman Publishing Company, Limited, 11 Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.—Editor*

**THIRTY YEARS' PROGRESS IN RHINOLOGY**

AN ADDRESS BY  
 E. CRESSWELL BABER, M.B.LOND.,

Surgeon to the Brighton and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital; President of the Section.

IN 1882 the study of anterior rhinoscopy, and of nasal diseases generally, received great impetus from the well-known researches of Zuckerkandl on the normal and pathological anatomy of the nose and its accessory sinuses. The next most noticeable event in rhinology was the ardent championship of reflex nasal neuroses by Hack, of Freiburg. In an able brochure published in 1881, and in numerous other papers, Hack contributed abundant material on the subject, and albeit his theories were not all sound, still, a valuable substratum of truth, sifted by later observers, remains, for which we are indebted to this brilliant worker. Amongst other things, Hack's theories led to an extended use of the galvanic cautery, invented by Middeldorpf some years before, and much employed by Voltolini. Moderation in regard to its use has now happily set in, and it is not used so promiscuously as I am afraid it was at one time. It may be mentioned that before Hack both Voltolini and B. Fränkel had drawn attention to the relation existing between asthma and certain forms of nasal disease. Very shortly after this date rhinology was destined to undergo what amounted practically to a revolution by the introduction of cocaine. In 1884 Jellinek published an article on its use in the throat and nose. In spite of the originally high price, the employment of cocaine rapidly spread in this department, not only on account of its anaesthetic properties enabling numberless operations to be painlessly performed, but also on account of its contracting power on the nasal mucous membrane. Its value in the latter respect in enabling a successful examination to be made may be fairly compared to that of atropine in examination of the eye.

While all these rapid developments were taking place, with regard to the careful examination and treatment of the nasal cavities, the study of the various reflex neuroses connected with the nose, and the use and action of cocaine, a new phase of rhinology was springing up. I refer to the study of sinus diseases. Diseases of the accessory sinuses when producing gross extra-nasal lesions had been known from time immemorial, and many fearful and wonderful operations had been devised for their removal. But the study of diseases of the sinuses, especially chronic empyema with only nasal symptoms ('Latent Empyema', Lichtwitz), was practically a new departure, and materially enlarged the scope of rhinology. The nasal cavities, as we can inspect them, were beginning to be regarded as only a small portion of the nasal tract, the gateway, as it were, to large and important cavities whose diseases merit careful study. Ziem, in his publications, dating from 1880 onwards, did pioneer work in latent empyema of the antrum, and was followed by a host of observers, who added largely to our knowledge. One of the most stimulating is Grünwald, and whilst his conclusions are doubtless some of them extreme, his work is highly suggestive, and has greatly increased the interest taken in the subject. All the different sinuses have been carefully investigated, including the frontal sinus, on some of the diseases of which we are about to hold a discussion.