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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

**REMARKS ON THE TREATMENT OF DEFLECTION OF THE NASAL
SEPTUM**

BY DUNDAS GRANT

THE thickenings and bendings of the nasal septum which are so glibly referred to as deviations, outgrowths, spurs, crests, and so forth, are found in given cases to be combined in various proportions. A universal method of treatment is therefore scarcely attainable, but the nearest approach to this is undoubtedly the simple sawing operation advocated by Bosworth with such force in his remarkable paper on 'Deformities of the Nasal Septum, etc.' (*New York Medical Record*, January 29, 1887), in which he gives an analysis of the results obtained in 166 cases. These appear to have been eminently satisfactory, and in no case was a perforation produced. In this respect the writer is to be congratulated on his skill and judgment, but also on his luck, for we doubt whether any other observer could find an equal number of successive cases without at least one in which adequate removal of the projection could not be effected with the saw without the unavoidable production of a perforation. Moreover, cases occur in which, although no perforation has been produced at the time, such a condition develops at a later period. The present writer has seen this occur in a case of tertiary acquired syphilis, in one of hereditary syphilis, and in a third case (on re-examination after several years) in which, at the time of the operation, there was no evidence of a perforation and no history of specific disease. These exceptional cases inculcate very obvious precautions, but they do not, in our opinion, invalidate the conclusion that Bosworth's sawing operation is by far the most generally applicable one in cases of 'deformity' of the septum in the gross.

For crests and spurs on the bony septum Bosworth's saw, or some modification of it (electric otherwise), is the ideal instrument, though some prefer a ring-knife, chisel, or trephine.

When we come to consider deflections as such, the applicability of this method becomes more questionable, and by a very happy inspiration on the part of the bureau of the section of Laryngology of the New York Academy of Medicine, a discussion has taken place on the 'Treatment of Nasal Stenosis due to Deflective Septa, with or without Thickening of Convex Side.' The introductory papers were read by Drs. F. H. Bosworth, Morris Asch, John O. Roe, Arthur W. Watson, E. B. Gleason, and Beaman Douglass, while the discussion was continued by Drs. Jonathan Wright, J. E. Newcomb, Holbrook Curtis, Arthur G. Root, Emil Mayer, and Thomas J. Harris. The papers are fully reported in our contemporary, the *Laryngoscope* for June, 1899, and offer condensed accounts of the methods described in greater detail in the various writers' previous publications.

Bosworth reiterates his opinion as to the applicability of the sawing procedure, which he claims 'as an operation which can be accomplished at an office sitting, and which does not involve confinement to the house or bed, and practically does not interfere with the daily occupation.'