

THE  
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,  
RHINOLOGY, AND OTOTOLOGY.

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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*

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**RETROSPECT.**

WHILE it cannot be said that the past year has been signalized by the announcement of any great discovery either in etiology or therapeutics, nevertheless, a review of the literature shows the same great activity which has distinguished laryngologists for a considerable number of years. A glance at the work done in our societies will show that the clinical aspect has received due attention, and in our country excellent work has been done in the London Laryngological Society. The reader will specially note with satisfaction earnest consideration of the great questions involved in the early detection and treatment of such acute affections as diphtheria and septic conditions of the upper respiratory passages; while in chronic ailments, particularly malignant disease, tubercle, and nervous affections, satisfactory progress has also been made. No doubt many popular theories have been seriously questioned and criticised; and we are not without evidence in some directions of a tendency of some writers to recanting somewhat the views at first held in such important questions as the serum treatment. We have been treated to masses of statistics, and told, on one hand, that the serum has almost suppressed mortality in diphtheria, and, on the other, that since this treatment began the mortality is as high as ever. Notwithstanding these conflicting reports, steady progress has been made, and in time the vexed questions will be settled and apparent discrepancies explained. What we do note with satisfaction in the literature is the care with which practitioners are aiming at early detection of disease, as evidenced not only by clinical reports, but by the establishment of laboratories in great centres of population where the practitioner may at the earliest moment get the all-important assistance. A feature in last year's progress is to be noted in the great use which has been made of such laboratories; and what is said of acute disease, we are pleased to see is also true, of chronic affections.