

**Personal reminiscences of the International Medical Congress at
Amsterdam in 1879 / by James Patterson Cassells.**

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Cassells, James Patterson, 1837-1884.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

Edinburgh : Oliver and Boyd, 1879.

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PERSONAL REMINISCENCES
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS
AT AMSTERDAM

IN 1879.

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BY

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EDINBURGH: OLIVER AND BOYD, TWEEDDALE COURT.

1879.

NOTE.

THIS little *brochure* has been reprinted from the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, with additions, for private circulation.

J. P. C.

2 NEWTON TERRACE,
GLASGOW, 1879.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS AT AMSTERDAM.

ON the 6th of September I arrived in Amsterdam—the northern Venice—to take part officially in the above-named Congress. Proceeding the same evening to the “Zeemanshoop,” which is a club of 600 members of the *élite* of the mercantile and shipping classes of Amsterdam, there to inscribe my name in the official register of the meeting, Professor Stokvis received me with much courtesy and some little humour, remarking that he was obliged to *extract* ten florins from me as the price of my ticket of membership, “because,” as he naïvely said, “we Dutchmen are so poor that we cannot afford to admit free members.” We (my eldest son and self) then inscribed our names for the various excursions and fêtes, much after the custom which obtains at the British Medical Association meetings, and were much pleased with the courtesy shown us by one of the assistants, Mr Thyssen, who, throughout all the meetings and excursions, proved an active and efficient member of the Committee of Organization of the Congress. In the evening there was a reunion of the members of the Congress in the *grande salle* of the Zoological Gardens (Artis). Next day, Sunday, at two o’clock, the *Séance d’Overture* took place under the presidency of Professor Donders of Utrecht, the President of the Congress, in the *grande salle du parc*, and was attended by most of the *élite* of Amsterdam and neighbourhood, both ladies and gentlemen. The hall itself was tastefully and artistically decorated with the colours and flags of all the nations represented at the Congress, and with shields on which were inscribed the names of the cities in which former meetings of the Congress had been held. The report of the General Secretary, Dr Guye, was read, and in it were set forth all the labours that had been gone through up to the time of the opening of the present Congress. (I may here remark that the whole subsequent success of the Congress was mainly, if not entirely, due to the very careful preparations which Dr Guye had made previously for the conduct of the Congress and the comfort of its members. Saying this is indeed faint praise to give this

gentleman for his self-sacrificing labours.) After the reading of the general report had been concluded, and when the *bureau définitif* had been nominated, among which were included all foreign delegates from other medical associations to the Congress, conspicuous among them being Professor Lister, Ernest Hart, and Professor Sayre of New York, the President of the American Medical Association, President Donders ascended the tribune and delivered his most remarkable address, which ranged over the whole field of science, past and present, reviewing also the important work to be done in each of the sections of the meeting now opened, among others mentioning the subject of "Ear Disease and Life Assurance" as one of the most important questions before the Congress, from a social point of view, to be discussed in the Otological section. As this was the question upon which the President and Committee had invited me to report, I naturally felt much pleased to learn that my subject was of so much importance as to merit mention in the Presidential address. The address itself was characterized by rare elegance of diction, and was delivered by one admitted by all to be an orator; and when I say this, the nature of the treat that was presented to us may be imagined, even by those who had not the pleasure of listening to the natural eloquence of the speaker. At half-past eight in the evening, the Burgomaster and the Corporation gave an official reception to the members of the Congress in the Hôtel de Ville.

On Monday, 8th September, the work of the sections, nine in number,¹ commenced, lasting from 9 A.M. till 1 P.M. In all the sections the same form was gone through of nominating a *bureau définitif* before the commencement of the proceedings, and thereafter the papers were read in the order in which they had been previously arranged. In the section of Otology, to which my attention was more directly devoted, there was a good assemblage of members. We had Ogston (Aberdeen), Turnbull (Philadelphia), Magnus, Guye, Giampietro, Menière, son of the celebrated Ménière, Professor Doyer (Leyden), Voltolini (Breslau), Dr Van Hoek (the president of the section, whose unassuming manner and amiable disposition contributed greatly to the success of this section and to the comfort and happiness of the members who attended it; personally I have a high esteem for my excellent friend and *confrère*, Van Hoek of Nimigen), Dr Delstanche of Brussels, Dr Land, the Secretary, Dr Schüster (Aix-la-Chapelle). Ernest Hart also visited the section, and several others. The reporters were Professor Doyer on "Adenoid Tumours of the

¹ There was a tenth section, viz., the Museum. This excellent exhibition of instruments and medical appliances was organized in great part and carried out by the well-known Dr Gori. All the celebrated continental Fabricants were exhibitors, and there were also numerous private exhibits of instruments by medical men, members of the Congress; among the latter I may especially note the beautiful and original physiological instruments of Dr Binnendyk.

Naso-Pharynx," Dr Guye on "Ménière's Disease," Dr Magnus on the "Different Methods of Determining the Acuteness of the Hearing," and myself on "Ear-Disease in relation to Life Assurance." Although my *mémoire* was last on the list, it was decided that it should be read first; and it was gratifying to find that the conclusions of the report were favourably discussed, and to know that they were afterwards adopted by the general assembly of the Congress. I read my *mémoire* in French before the section, and when I began to speak of my own labours in the matter, I handed it over to my friend Dr Delstanche, who read the rest of it for me. Dr Turnbull read in English a most excellent little paper on "Tinnitus Aurium." The reports by Drs Guye, Doyer, and Magnus were read on the following days, and we had several interesting demonstrations from the members of new instruments, especially interesting being those of Voltolini, Doyer, and Delstanche. Dr Ménière also gave us a demonstration on the removal of foreign bodies from the middle ear. Altogether the work done in the Otological Section was most substantial and praiseworthy. I forgot to mention that Professor Voltolini and Dr Delstanche were unanimously elected vice-presidents of the section. In the fifth section—Public Medicine—on Monday, Dr A. H. Allbutt of Leeds read a paper on "Infant Mortality and Premature Death."

As regards the work done in the other sections I can speak only from hearsay, and that went to show that, although nothing very new or very startling had been announced, the work done was of a thorough and exhaustive character; and, so far as I could judge, this was borne out by the reports of the sectional work that were read in the general assembly of the Congress in the *Grande Salle* each day after the conclusion of the labours of the sections.

At the general assembly on Monday, Professor Becker of Heidelberg gave an address on the "Relation of Eye-Diseases to the Localization of Diseases of the Brain." Dr Chervin (Paris), at the same meeting, gave an address on "Stuttering and its Treatment." In the evening, in the *Grande Salle* of the "Felix Meritis," Professor Marey of Paris delivered a discourse, to which the ladies were admitted, on the part taken by different nations in the discovery of the circulation of the blood. Thereafter the Society Hereeniging gave a musical soirée, at which the beauty and fashion of Amsterdam were present, and which was a great success. The following was the programme of the music on this occasion:—
EERSTE DEEL.—*Harmonie-Orkest in den Tuin*.—1. Academische Feestmarsch (Viotta). 2. Ballet Musik aus der Oper "*Feramors*" (A. Rubinstein). 3. Symphonie No. 4 D moll. (A. Schumann)—*a.* Ziemlich langsam; *b.* Romance; *c.* Scherzo und Finale.
Strijk-Orkest in de Zaal.—1. Academische Feestmarsch (Viotta). 2. Ballet Musik aus der Oper "*Feramors*" (A. Rubinstein)—*a.* Bajaderentanz; *b.* Lichtertanz der Braute von Kaschmir; *c.*

Hochzeitszieg. 3. Symphonie No. 5 C mol. (L. Van Beethoven)—*a. Allegro con brio ; b. Andante con moto ; c. Allegro und Finale.* TWEEDE DEEL.—*Harmonie-Orkest in den Tuin.*—4. Feest-Ouverture (J. B. Van Bree). 5. Fantaisie, "*Stabat Mater*" (Rossini). 6. Danse "*Macabre*," poème Symphonique d'après une poésie de Henri Gazalis (Saint Saens). 7. Jubel-Ouverture (C. M. Von Weber). *Strijk-Orkest in de Zaal.*—4. Gaudeamus Ouverture (R. Holl). 5. Fantaisie, "*Stabat Mater*" (Rossini). 6. Danse "*Macabre*," poème Symphonique d'après une poésie de Henri Gazalis (Saint Saens). 7. Jubel Ouverture (C. M. Von Weber).

On Tuesday, 9th September, the work of the general sections proceeded as usual. In the Otological section, Dr Guye (the general secretary of the Congress) found time to read a masterly and exhaustive "Report" on the so-called "Ménière's disease." This paper was well discussed by the members of the section ; with general acclamations it was pronounced to be a most excellent *Mémoire*. It will appear shortly in the *British Medical Journal*, translated *in extenso* by its talented author. In the third section—Accouchements and Gynecology—on Tuesday, Lawson Tait of Birmingham gave a demonstration of his gynecological instruments ; and the same day, in the ninth or Pharmacological section, Dr Thomas R. Fraser of Edinburgh reported upon the question of a "Universal Pharmacopœia." In the general assembly of the Congress, after the sectional reports of the day had been read by the respective secretaries, Professor Lister gave a most excellent address in French on the antiseptic treatment of wounds, dealing in the latter part of it with the opinions of the opponents of his system of treatment. But it is of the ovation which greeted the learned Professor as he ascended the tribune that I would speak. Such waving of hats and handkerchiefs, stamping of feet, umbrellas, and sticks, hurrahing and "hoching," bravoing from hundreds of tongues, I never heard before in all my experience. Midst all this honest and heartfelt excitement Professor Lister stood with a figure and face as emotionless as that of a statue, and as calm and beautiful in its repose. President Donders, who had been standing during this exciting scene, called for silence, and when at last the *furor* of excitement had subsided, he approached Professor Lister, and, taking him by the hand, said, "Professor Lister, we give you not only our own homage, but the homage of the nations." This was the signal for a renewal of the ovation, which lasted for some time.

After Lister's address came Professor Van Geuss of Amsterdam "On the Value of the Doctrine of Naegle in the Interpretation of the Facts having Relation to the Propagation of the Miasmatic Epidemics." In the evening the members of Committee of Organization of the Congress, MM. Fabius, Guye, Hertz de Perrot, Stokvis, Tilanus, and Zeemen, gave a private dinner to the foreign reporters, at which I was present, seated on the right hand of Dr

Guye, the general secretary. This dinner was held in the establishment of Zommerdyk Bussink, the "Véfour" of Amsterdam. Later on in the same day there was a *fête* given in Volke's Palace, or Palace of Industry, consisting of music and a vaudeville in one act, which represented the marriage of "Kloris en Roosje," in which the characters were dressed in the Dutch costumes of the early part of this century; this entertainment having been got up specially for the purpose of showing the correct costume of that period to the foreign visitors. The entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Wednesday, as usual, was an off-day at the Congress, and devoted to pleasuring. The excursion was to Ymuiden and the Zuyder Zee. Early in the day we were favoured with a storm of wind and a deluge of rain, which deterred many of the members from going to the Zuyder Zee, which was the first part of the voyage. On the return from the Zuyder Zee, as it still continued to be very stormy, many of the members left the steamer and remained behind. Others, like myself, more venturesome, remained aboard, and resumed the second part of our excursion, viz., the sail through the great Dutch canal into the North Sea at Ymuiden. This canal is somewhat longer than the Suez Canal, and broader and deeper. The sail was most enjoyable, for the day broke up and continued fine from soon after our departure from Amsterdam. At the North-Sea end of the canal we changed from the small canal steamer into a large sea-going steamer, which took us out between sea walls a distance of six miles to the bar of the new harbour, where we had a good toss on the waves, where some of our members lost their hats as well as their spectacles, and others the contents of their stomachs. The sea walls are a marvel of marine engineering, and have all been built in spite of obstacles that would have daunted less brave hearts than are possessed by these busy Dutch bodies. The return sail was most pleasant, and in the evening the dinner of the members in the Grande Salle of the "Artis" was a fit ending to the pleasures of the day.

The work of the sections was resumed on Thursday as usual. In the Otological section on this day, Dr Magnus of Königsberg read a most elaborate paper on the "Different Methods of Determining the Acuteness of the Hearing." He decides that the ordinary pocket watch is the most practical as well as the most convenient measure of the hearing for single and simple tones.

I had afterwards much pleasure in the company and conversation of so lovable and unassuming a man as I found Dr Magnus to be.

In the general assembly, Professor Verneuil of Paris discoursed on the "Indications and Contra-indications for Operations." Dr Drysdale of London afterwards talked on his old subject, "The Effect of the Regulation of Prostitution on the Public Health." In the company of my chum Dr Turnbull, on this afternoon, we visited the Trippenhuys, named after a former possessor, the Burgomaster

Tripp, also known by the name of the s'Rijks Museum. This museum was founded under the government of Louis Bonaparte, and is a national gallery in the proper sense of the term, as it contains nearly most of the precious examples of the Dutch School, chief among them being the "Ronde de Nuit" and "Les Syndics" of Rembrandt, and the "Commemoration of the Peace of Munster," or the "Banquet of the Arquebusiers," by Van der Helst. In the evening there was a conference with Virchow in the Grande Salle of the "Felix Meritis," the subject being "Ancient Troy." His lecture was full of interest to archæologists; but undoubtedly, Virchow shines most when he speaks extemporaneously, as was evident in this lecture: when he spoke from notes, he was much less fluent in his expression. In the evening there was a musical soiree in the *parc*.

On Friday, in the section of Medicine, Mrs Dr Hoggan of London read a paper on "The relations of Carcinoma to the Lymphatic System." In the section of Biology, Professor Donders reported on "The Systems of the Sensations of Colour;" the conclusions of his report have not, however, yet been published. In the same section Professor Marey reported on "The Determination of the Blood-Pressure in Man." In the Ophthalmological section, Snellen reported on "The Antiseptic Method in Eye Operations." His first conclusion is, that it is of the same value as in ordinary operations; but the employment of the Lister spray offers insurmountable difficulties in operations on the cornea, and is replaced with success by a current of air purified with carbolic acid. In the Otological section Professor Doyer reported on "The Adenoid Tumours of the Naso-Pharynx," and exhibited a new post-nasal douche of his own devising. The report was well illustrated by photographs of patients both before and after treatment, showing the results of his mode of treatment in the changed expressions of the faces. On this day, in the Elizabeth Hospital, Professors Lister and Sayre each gave practical demonstrations, presided over by Professor Tilanus. Lister's demonstration took place after Sayre's, and consisted in a display of his method of dressing wounds after removal of a necrosed bone and other operations. In the evening, Professor Sayre gave a dinner to the American delegates to the Congress, at which representatives of the Corporation of Amsterdam were present, as well as the American Consul. I had the honour to propose his health, on behalf of the Scotchmen present at the Congress, with all the honours, and the usual accompaniment of "He's a jolly good fellow;" at the conclusion of which many foreign members came and thanked me for my "Schottische jig!" (I may add here that Professor Sayre's father was a Scotchman, although the Professor is himself American born.) Later in the evening the medical men of Amsterdam gave the members a *fête* in the summer theatre of Van Leer. The nature of the entertain-

ment may be judged of from the cast of the characters in a two-act drama, entitled "College Schnepper," by Dr Supinator Longus, "a species of drama in two acts, for the surgeons and natural historians of both hemispheres." The characters were—

HABAKKUK SCHNEPPER—A practitioner of the "old" school, and a "bleeder" as well as a "spouter."

PHARYNX, his Son—A ne'er-dae-weel.

LIQUIRITIA RADIX—His niece and ward.

DR SUCCUS—General practitioner of the "modern" school, in love with the old doctor's niece.

FRAU GLOTTIS—Hostess of the "Jolly Leech," in love with Pharynx.

PANCREAS—"Boots" in the "Jolly Leech."

There were also two tableaux represented, the one, "The Past and the Present," founded on the picture of Ambrose Paré dressing the wounded on the field of battle. In this case Paré's place was taken by a well-got-up "double" of Lister spraying his germ-destroying fluid on the wounds of the soldiers. The other, "The Future," was founded on Rembrandt's well-known picture, "The Anatomical Lesson;" but instead of men surrounding the lecturer, *she* was surrounded by women, the most prominent of whom was Mrs Dr Jacobs *in propria persona*, the first and only female medical graduate of the University of Amsterdam. Professor Lister's "double" was received with a volume of applause, to which Professor Lister, seated among the audience, bowed his acknowledgments. The ladies in "The Anatomical Lesson" were less boisterously applauded, but well received nevertheless.

On Saturday, in the Medical section, Professor Zavertal of Rome, brother of our distinguished local musician,¹ read valuable papers on the "Syphilitic Affections of the Larynx," and on "Bronchial Asthma from the Point of View of its Pathological and Clinical History." Professor Macgillavry of Leyden, the scion of an old Scottish house, read a valuable report on the question of "Sympathetic Irido-choroiditis" in the section of Ophthalmology. Virchow, in the General Assembly, discoursed upon medical education, a subject on which he has already spoken at other Congresses. Its delivery was characterized by all the earnestness and fire of the veteran savant. In the evening the "farewell banquet" was given in the Grande Salle of the "Felix Meritis." Most of the members of the Congress were present, notable among them being Dr Warlomont of Brussels, the celebrated oculist, who has played such a conspicuous part in the recent English conference on animal vaccination. He was surprised to find that nearly twelve years ago I had introduced animal vaccination into Scotland for the first time, and that I had been since then a warm advocate of this method of vaccination, to the exclusion of the "arm to arm" method. Toasts and sentiments succeeded each other at a rate which beggars

¹ L. Zavertal, Professor of Music in Glasgow.

description; eternal friendships were vowed, adieus were spoken, cards exchanged; and I was made the bearer of a pleasant message from Virchow to the Editor of the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, complimenting him on the success that has attended his editorial efforts. During the earlier part of the evening I was seated between my friends Ernest Hart and Dr da Silva Amado of Lisbon, delegate to the Congress from Portugal; later on I seated myself between my two dear friends, Alexander Ogston and Laurence Turnbull, whose fame in their respective walks is world-wide. It was at the "farewell" that Dr Ogston made me acquainted with Dr Wollaston of Cannes, a grand-nephew of our celebrated Wollaston.

On ascending to an upper chamber, addresses were delivered of a farewell character by a messenger from the King of Holland; by Virchow to the younger students, urging them to perseverance in their studies, and to prosecute them with a pure heart and spirit, seeking for the truth alone, which he declared ought to be their life quest. While he was speaking, his otherwise plain features actually glowed with enthusiasm, as if his whole soul were shining in his face, giving to it a charm which it lacks in his more ordinary moods. A torch-light procession by the students of the three faculties of the University of Amsterdam, and the singing of the "Gaudeamus," brought a successful meeting to a successful close.

On Sunday, 14th September, the Dutch Railway Company provided a special train for the members of the Congress for an excursion to Scheveningen, where there was an official reception by the municipal commission charged with the direction of the *Grand Hotel des Bains*, and by their physician-in-chief, Dr Mess, who entertained the members at luncheon after the reception. I did not accompany this excursion, going down myself quietly to Scheveningen in the afternoon of the same day. I had now parted with my friend Laurence Turnbull, with whom I had had pleasant times in Cork at the meeting of the British Medical Association in August, and who was my *companion de voyage* from Harwich to Amsterdam, he having gone Rhinewards to spend a few days with Weber-Liel on his pleasant estate near Coblenz, and thence through Germany to Vienna. I remained at Scheveningen for a week, doing the sea-bathing in the morning and the picture-galleries of the Hague in the afternoon, where, in the museum or *Mauritshuis*, constructed by the Prince Maurice of Nassau, one sees the celebrated "Anatomical Lesson" by Rembrandt, having Professor Nicholas Tulp as the demonstrator, surrounded by a group, seven in number, of the guild of *chirurgiens* of Amsterdam. It contains also the no less celebrated "Bull" of Paul Potter, which, by the way, was sold in 1749 for 630 florins, and is valued to-day at 60,000 florins. I also visited the splendid collection of Baron Steingracht van Oosterland, whose magnificent collection

of the old masters well repays a lengthy visit. On Monday, 15th September, we saw the King of Holland returning in state after having opened the Staats-General. The procession was the most magnificent I had seen for some time, and the brilliant sunshine caused the gold mounting of the carriages and the arms of the military to glitter with a brightness almost dazzling. The King on this occasion was seated alone in his magnificent chariot, to the evident surprise of the multitude of spectators, who had (as I was told) generally expected to see him accompanied by his young queen. Afterwards, at Scheveningen, where the season was now at its height, and where princes and princesses, dukes and duchesses and barons, were "as plenty as blackberries in September," we had the opportunity of seeing his majesty and the young Queen, with her maids-of-honour-in-waiting, several times, on the occasion of their visiting the Princess of Roumania, who was a resident in the "Hotel Garni," where I chanced to be staying at the time.

I should like to say a few words about the sea-bathing at Scheveningen, how the thing is done, and what are the benefits to be expected from it in a therapeutical sense. As to the manner of doing the baths: one rises at 6.30 A.M., has *café-au-lait* at 7 A.M. with a small roll, then goes for a brisk walk along the sands till 8, then to the *Cabinet des Bains*, there to ascertain the temperature of the air and sea and the direction of the wind, and to procure bathing pants and towels for the sum of 75 cents, which entitles two persons to a *grand cabinet* or bathing-box with a sheltering hood and iron rails. Having given up your ticket to the bathman, you ensconce yourself in the bathing-coach and are drawn out to the first line of surf when there are two. The tide rising and falling very little here, the lines of surf and their height are determined by the direction and force of the wind, and sometimes the waves are indeed high. After being drawn into the surf, the bathman turns round the mouth of the carriage towards it and leaves you there with the waves breaking around you. The first look you get of the scene on opening the bathing-coach door is not a very inviting one; but there is no danger, unless, indeed, you venture out to the second surf when you ought to remain at the first one. Then a very few minutes may suffice to exhaust you through the violence of the waves, as happened to a bather whom I saw in sore plight, and who had to be rescued by the lifeboat. For is there not a lifeboat duly and formally launched the first thing in the morning, ere the bathing begins, for rescuing any one who may be overpowered by the violence of the waves? Entering the surf, you allow the waves to dash against your body. Great big ones come curling in, sometimes five or more feet high, breaking on you with a force which makes you fear that some of your ribs have given way. You continue this process so long as you may without fatigue; but it is far from fatiguing or exhausting, and so it is kept up for twenty

minutes or half an hour by the old *habitués*. Sea-bathing at Scheveningen is a most tonic and exhilarating mode of taking a sea bath, and, I think, is the only mode in which it can be used with the hope of getting the maximum of toning and bracing effects which are always to be desired from bathing in sea water. My first bath was disappointing, because, being a new-comer, I suppose, I was left by the bathman in the quiet water between the two surfs, and there allowed to paddle about in a kind of tepid mixture of sand and water, from which I obtained very little good, and certainly no bracing or toning effects whatever. Next morning, however, all that was changed; I was taken in to the surf and had my fill of "the briny," big waves bursting over our bodies with all the force of the North Sea at their back, until, after twenty minutes' struggling with them, we were fain to beat a somewhat undignified retreat into our bathing-box. After leaving the bathing-box one walks on the sands for an hour or more, enjoying the sea breeze, and then adjourns for *dejeuner* with an appetite to relish it; and so finishes the morning's work at Scheveningen. After six baths such as I have described, and lots of walking up and down the sands in the bracing air, I found that I had got enough of Scheveningen, and so bade adieu to it.

At Leyden I spent a few days in the clinique of Professor Dr Doyer, in fulfilment of a promise which I had made to the learned professor. There I saw many interesting eye cases, and operations performed thereon by him in a highly dexterous way, without fuss or pretension of any kind. I had also an opportunity of seeing some uncommon forms of ear-disease. Here I had also the pleasure of meeting again Professor Becker of Heidelberg, the well-known ophthalmologist, who was, like myself, also paying a friendly visit to Professor Dr Doyer. In this *clinique* I saw for the first time a mode of giving chloroform which has something to recommend it. It was as follows:—The chloroform being administered slowly with the usual flannel cap, the patient was asked to repeat after the administrator the cardinal numbers (in Dutch, of course) until the narcosis was complete. It was interesting to notice, as the brain came more and more under the influence of the anæsthetic, how that a gradual increase in the loudness of the spoken words of the chloroformist brought forth a reply from the patient which, at first clear and distinct, became gradually inarticulate, and at last ceased altogether, the loudest shout failing to meet with any response from the now unconscious patient. Supposing that this method of giving chloroform had for its object to ascertain when the exact moment of insensibility took place, I was not going to inquire further about the matter. However, a question from the professor as to the Scottish mode of giving this anæsthetic brought out the explanation that what I had seen him do in this respect had for its aim to ensure perfect respiration during the administra-

tion of the chloroform, and adding that ever since he had adopted the "counting" method which I had just seen in operation he had not had any difficulty with the breathing of the numerous patients that he had narcotized. Doubtless there is something in the professor's mode of administering chloroform worthy of consideration. The "Sikenhuis" or hospital in which this clinique is situated is of recent origin. Everything about it, down to its beautiful and well-kept garden, indicates the presence of an order and a management alike commendable and pleasant to behold. It occupies the site of a once famous "Sikenhuis" made famous by the teaching of Boerhaave and of other celebrated physicians. Over against the principal entrance-gate of this Hospital there is, at the present time, a magnificent marble statue of the above-named celebrated physician. While staying at Leyden I paid a re-visit to Amsterdam. I had come, by Dr Guye's kind invitation, to see his practice in the clinique at the Elizabethan Hospital. There were not many cases of ear-disease in it at the time, owing to the occurrence in the city of some yearly holidays, but what cases presented themselves were not lacking in interest. On this account Dr Guye asked me to return to see his private practice, an invitation which I would have gladly accepted had time permitted; but, alas! I had to bid Amsterdam adieu, and good-bye to my excellent friend Dr Guye—thus severing the last link that bound me to the Sixth International Medical Congress of 1879.

