

## **Book review**

### HISTORY OF OTOTOLOGY *VOLUME 2*

#### **The History of Otology - a Tribute to Adam Politzer** Albert Mudry

Jean Paul Wayenborgh © 2015  
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Recently the book “*The History of Otology*” volume II by Albert Mudry was issued by Jean Paul Wayenborgh. No wonder that we meet the same otologist and historian Albert Mudry again, who published in 2010 “*The History of Otology*” Volume I with the title: *Adam Politzer - A Life for Otology*. The volume I is the most comprehensive and scholarly biography about Politzer. In 1907, Politzer had written the book “*Geschichte der Ohrenheilkunde*” published by Enke in Stuttgart/Germany. This work of Politzer can be considered to be the first book on the history of otology. Unfortunately it was only printed in the German language until a translated English version appeared in 1981.

The inspiring book became a challenge for Mudry to add modern sources and aspects of historical knowledge to it. Thus he now presents his version of the history of otology in 507 pages of his fascinating beautiful groomed book. With respect for the work of Politzer Mudry used the same pattern of chapter contents starting with otology in prehistory and antiquity and ending with otology in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Each chapter was extensively enlarged. Thus the contents of the whole book increased by a little more than a third. While in the original Politzer we find 20 images (portraits excluded), Mudry presents more than 150 images without portraits. In contrast to Mudry's volume I on the history of otology the original references are printed as footnotes on the bottom of every concerning page which makes it easier to perform research on the subjects mentioned. The book contains about 6000 footnotes, much more than in Politzer's book. All quotations are translated into English, while this can be found only rarely in Politzer's book. There are no abbreviations in the footnotes, contrary to Politzer where most of them were abbreviated, thus sometimes quite impossible to find. The different used editions are clearly explained, which is not the case in the original Politzer. The list of references is extensive showing the enormous work Mudry performed to realize this historical masterpiece on otology.

More than a century ago Politzer ended his foreword of his book on the history of otology by saying that he hoped that his work would stimulate his colleagues to start their own successful

studies in the field of otology. The same can now be said for this latest book by Albert Mudry for which I had the pleasure to review. The book is a must for everyone interested and dealing with the history of otology.

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