

Obituary

ADOLPHE PINARD

(1844—1934).

OBSTETRIC medicine has lost one of its greatest heroes by the death of Adolphe Pinard in his ninetieth year. The eldest son of a family in the Champagne country, he was born in 1844 at Méry-sur-Seine in the Department of l'Aube. He went at an early age to Paris and, having insufficient means to prosecute his medical studies, he became apprenticed to a chemist, and was thus enabled out of his slender salary to support himself and render aid to his brothers. He was a student of medicine at the time of the Franco-German War, and served in the advanced posts around Paris. He was appointed an *interne des hôpitaux* in 1871. In 1873 he served as *interne* to Stéphane Tarnier. In 1874 he obtained the doctorate by his thesis on "Pelvimétrie et Pelvigraphie des Bassins Viciés," and in 1878 became professeur agrégé at the Faculté de Médecine. At this time was created a class of special obstetricians, "les accoucheurs des hôpitaux," and Pinard was the first to be appointed.

After several years at the Lariboisière hospital Pinard was summoned to direct the Clinique Baudelocque, which, under his direction, soon obtained a world-wide fame.

In 1878 Pinard published his "Traité de Palper Abdominal" and "Version par Manœuvres Externes." These excellent treatises had an important influence on obstetric practice and gave evidence of the great clinical acumen of the author. Always tempering his scientific zeal with a humane regard for the welfare of the mother and infant, he was delighted when he could justifiably exclaim "la basiotripsie a vécu," as a result of the improvements in symphysiotomy, of which he was an early advocate. Also, in the interest of the child, he thought that difficult extraction with the forceps and induction of premature labour should be abandoned in favour of symphysiotomy, an operation since displaced by the superior results of Caesarean section.

In his clinic he was the *grand maître*, with a dignified presence and a good voice which gave utterance to incisive and epigrammatic sayings which much impressed his pupils, who

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tried to copy his style. I remember the smile of the master, at the congress at Moscow, when his favourite pupil Varnier, in dramatically describing the *culbute* of the infant, cried out "Brup!" Pinard devoted the latter years of his life to the welfare of infants, becoming a *puériculteur*; and one of the last functions he attended was the opening of the École de Puériculture, when he received the cross of *grand officier de la légion d'honneur*.

The loss of his son, killed in the World War, was a great blow, stoically borne. He was for eight years a *député* for Paris and was the doyen of the Chambre.

Pinard enjoyed splendid health, for which he always thanked his parents. By their side he rests in the village where he was born.

All those who knew him will retain happy memory of the master, so zealous for the welfare of his country, its mothers and their babes, a great teacher, a great obstetrician, a great gentleman.

H.R.S.