

## JEAN SAMUEL POZZI, M.D.

1846 - 1919

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JEAN SAMUEL POZZI, M.D., professor of clinical gynecology in the Faculte de Médecine of Paris, was assassinated in his consulting room in Paris on the evening of June 13, 1919. The assassin was a man upon whom Pozzi had operated two years previously, and who nursed some imaginary grievance against the surgeon. He wrote several letters to Pozzi requesting an interview, which was granted. On entering the room he fired four shots at Pozzi, one bullet, entering the abdomen, made multiple perforating wounds of the intestine. The assassin then turned his weapon upon himself, shattering his temple and producing a fatal wound of the brain. Pozzi was quickly conveyed to a hospital and was operated on by one of his colleagues. Death occurred during the operation. M. Clemenceau, the premier, a close friend of Pozzi, was at his side when he died.

Pozzi was born October 3, 1846, in Bergerac, in southwestern France. He was the son of a clergyman of the Reformed Church. He received his doctorate degree in medicine in 1873. Two years later he was appointed associate in the Paris Faculte de Médecine, and in 1877 surgeon to the hospitals. In 1901 he was made professor of clinical gynecology, a chair created especially for him. He wrote a number of works, touching not only on gynecology, but also on general surgery. His book, *Traite de Gynecologie Clinique et Operatoire*, has been a great success since its first edition, which was published in August, 1890, and sold out in February, 1891. This book was awarded

the Godard prize of the Academie des Sciences in 1890 and the Huguier prize of the Academie de Medécine in 1892. It was translated into several foreign languages, among them English. Pozzi was elected a member of the Academie de Médecine in 1896, serving as Vice-President in 1918. He took an active interest in public affairs, and for nine years was the representative in the Senate of his native province, the Dordogne.

Prof. Pozzi was a man of scholarly attainments, and his writings as well as his clinical work won for him an international reputation. He was a conspicuous figure in the surgical profession in Paris. He was possessed of many accomplishments, among them being extensive information and keen appreciation of art as exhibited in old books and curios.

Pozzi made numerous visits to America and was widely known among American surgeons. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the American Gynecological Society in 1891. He attended the annual meeting celebrating the Centennial of McDowell's operation, held in New York in 1909. At this meeting he read a scholarly and exhaustive paper on "The Evolution of Ovariectomy in France," and also a description of his operation for the cure of dysmenorrhea and sterility, both of which papers are published in the *Transactions* for that year.



*W. H. C. Wood*