

*Otto Spiegelberg*, an Honorary Fellow of this Society, and deservedly one of the most famous of modern obstetricians, was born on January 9th, 1830, at Peine in Hanover. He died of contracted kidneys and heart disease at Breslau, on the 9th August, 1881, at the too early age of fifty years, a deplorable event, suddenly arresting in mid-career a life of very great activity and beneficence in both science and practice.

Spiegelberg received a classical education at Hildesheim, and at the early age of eighteen entered the University of Göttingen. Here he already showed his inclination towards the pursuit of midwifery, and so attracted the regard and esteem of his teacher, E. C. I. von Siebold, that he took him with him to Vienna on a scientific expedition in 1852. On his return to Göttingen Spiegelberg set about the study and practice of midwifery with zeal destined never to wane. In 1855 he made a scientific journey to England, Scotland, and Ireland. I remember the bright-eyed, zealous youth, diligently seeking all kinds of knowledge in Edinburgh, where my highly-prized acquaintance with him began, soon to ripen into a mutual friendship, which lasted till his death. In 1860 he published a small text-book of midwifery, and in the same year he was made extraordinary professor of midwifery in the University. In 1861 he was

called to Freiburg as Professor Ordinarius, and there he married Fräulein Louise de Bary. After two years in Freiburg he went to Königsberg as professor, but before he was well settled there he accepted the same office in Breslau, in 1865. He thus held four professorships of midwifery successively; but this is not all, for he had the great honour of being invited, in 1878, to the Professor's Chair in Strasbourg,—a professorial character of remarkable variety.

In 1870, co-operating with the well-known and highly-esteemed Professor Credé, of Leipsic, he started the 'Archiv für Gynaekologie,' and to it he contributed many valuable papers in midwifery, but especially in gynæcology, to which latter department he was specially devoted during the latter half of his professional life. This great journal, conducted by Credé and Spiegelberg, has done very great honour to its conductors and contributors, being by far the best obstetrical periodical that has ever appeared, eminently distinguished for its high scientific character, successfully pushing obstetrics and gynæcology into that truly scientific position which it is our highest ambition as a society to promote. In this journal there appears a necrological account of Spiegelberg to which I am indebted, and for which we have to thank Spiegelberg's warm and admiring friend Leopold.

The great, I feel inclined to say the immortal, work of Spiegelberg is his 'Lehrbuch,' which appeared in 1878, and of which the second edition is only partially published. In a letter I had from him a few days before his death, in which he discussed the prospect of his coming to the International Medical Congress, he mentioned that he was far advanced with the second half of his large work and that he hoped soon to complete it. The first edition of this book is only nominally a second edition of the small 'Lehrbuch,' which he published in 1858 while still at Göttingen. The 'Lehrbuch' of 1878 is about the largest system of midwifery that has ever appeared. It is greatly to be lamented that he did not live to finish the new edition, and to edit even still more. Only second to the best original

work is the production of a first-rate Lehrbuch, and in this, I believe, we have an example of unsurpassed excellence. The two parts of the work which still await publication are, I believe, to be edited by Dr. Wiener, lately assistant to Spiegelberg.