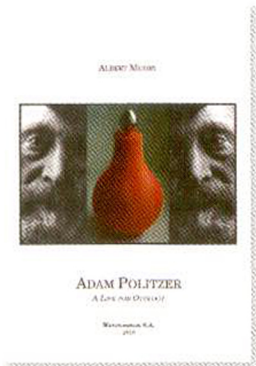


Adam Politzer: a life for otology

Author: Albert Mudry. **Published by:** Kugler Publications. **ISBN:** 978-99-9539-350-2. **Price:** €139.

This excellent treatise offers an account of the life, career and times of Adam Politzer (1835-1920), who could be recognised as the founder of modern otology. His influence on the 50 years of otology has never been equalled. The author, Albert Murdy is an otologist in Lausanne, Switzerland and affiliated to Stanford University on the 'Stanford Online Resources in the History of Otology' project. The book is borne out of the author's passion for the history of otology and hence is extremely well researched and presented and supplemented by original material gleaned from Politzer family sources. It is well illustrated with 145 illustrations of otologic apparatus and eminent personalities who had influenced Politzer's career and inventions (for example Carl Ludwig, Hermann von Trolsch, Hermann von Helmholtz, Joseph Toynbee, Hermann Schwartze, Joseph Hyrtle) and takes the reader through the life of this extraordinary genius. It narrates how new insights



into pathology and new strategies of treatment emerged in the early 19th century as clinicians extended their research in physiological medicine and transformed European medicine. It also stresses the importance of great teachers in shaping the minds of exceptional people. It then examines Politzer the researcher, the clinician, the teacher, the historian and the art lover in its subsequent chapters. The book also shows Politzer's artistic prowess in compiling a chronicle of middle ear conditions through sketches, monographs and sculptures. The bibliography is exhaustively cross referenced. Overall this is an excellent book that would delight anybody

with an interest in the history of medicine.

*Reviewed by Mr Jaydip Ray, Consultant ENT Surgeon,
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