

Obituary

Dr. Joseph Grünberg

Dr. Joseph Grünberg died in Berlin, Germany on May 11th, 1932. Even his closest friend knew practically nothing of his early life. I have been unable to find either the date or place of his birth though I know he was born somewhere in Russia and that his parents, or his father, at least, were killed in one of the massacres. Dr. Grünberg never married. His professional career was spent in Germany, chiefly in Berlin.

Dr. Grünberg first came to America in 1905, when he took the Angle course in St. Louis. After completing the course, he went to Chicago and spent some time in the histological laboratories of Northwestern University Dental School, and then left for Berlin. He returned to America in 1909 and assisted, as teacher, in the Angle course which, that year, was given in New London. After returning to Europe, in the latter part of 1905, he interested his friend, Dr. Albin Oppenheim of Vienna, in the problem of tissue changes in orthodontic tooth movement.

When he returned to New London in 1911, to have charge of the technical instruction in the course given in the Angle school that year, he brought Dr. Oppenheim with him and the latter presented the results of his research work at the meeting of the Alumni Society of the Edward H. Angle School of Orthodontia. Dr. Grünberg stayed in America several months after the course was finished, translating into German Dr. Angle's text book, 'Malocclusion of the Teeth'.



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This was published in Germany as the eighth edition of Dr. Angle's book and contains some additional chapters which are not found in any English edition. One of these chapters, entitled Diagnosis, very clearly sets forth a proper explanation of Dr. Angle's "Law of the Maxillary First Molar" which has been quite generally misunderstood and still is misunderstood by many. These chapters were prepared with close co-operation and under the supervision of Dr. Angle.

The two best known contributions of Dr. Grünberg to orthodontia are his symmetriscope and the blow-pipe which bears his name. The first named is a very ingenious table-like instrument which permitted the operator to compare the two halves of the same dental arch, from the standpoint of symmetry. The technique of its use together with a statement of its limitations was embodied in the chapter on Diagnosis, referred to above.

Dr. Grünberg had a most gentle and lovable personality and exhibited a tremendous enthusiasm for the truth and an unlimited amount of energy for the attainment of the ideal. He was an enthusiastic student, an untiring worker and a most conscientious practitioner. At the meeting of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontia in California in 1926 he presented, with lantern slides, records of the treatment of not only one or two, but many cases, showing the most perfect results, five, ten, fifteen and twenty years after completion.

He was most charitable to all but vehemently abhorred three things, indifference, dishonesty and laziness. In the passing of Dr. Grünberg orthodontia has lost one of the finest exponents in the art and science.

FREDERICK B. NOYES