

Servants of Mankind.

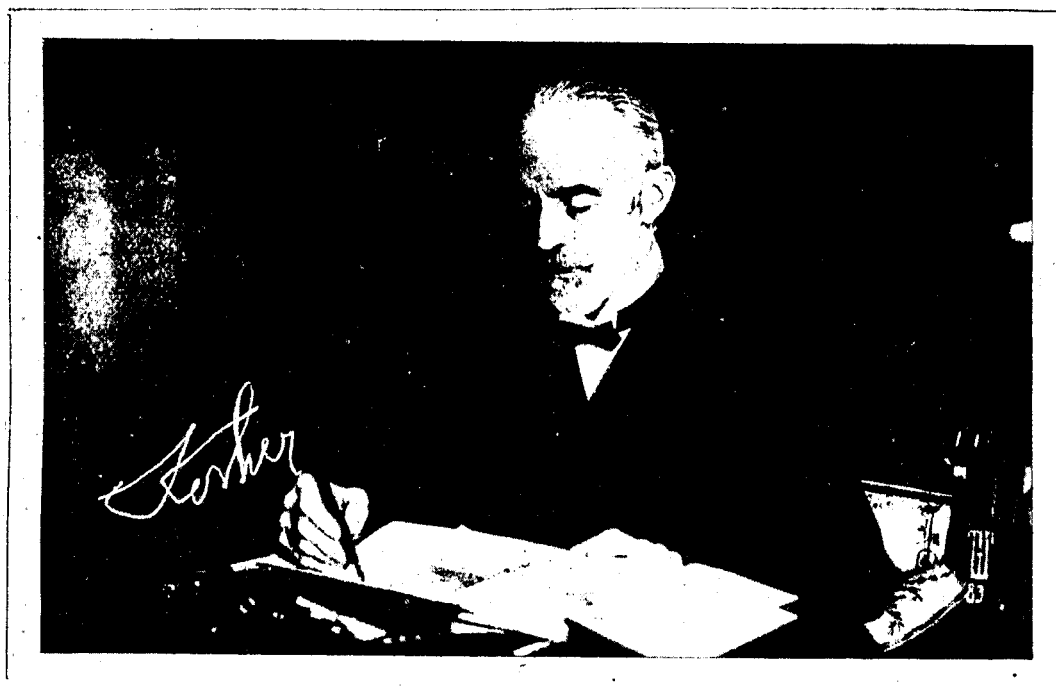
KOCHER, THE GREAT GOITRE SPECIALIST.

A few notes on one of the winners of the Nobel prizes may be of interest. The prizes are awarded to those who are considered to have rendered the greatest service to mankind, and one was won last year by the eminent surgeon, Professor Kocher, of Berne.

Kocher was born of simple parentage in the country region of the Canton of Berne. It was entirely owing to his zeal and capacity for work that the fund for his studies were provided, and these qualities, added to his genius for diagnosis

land and the European continent, but from all over the world. Millionaires and others have to wait patiently—sometimes for weeks—until the great surgeon has time to see them.

Kocher's activity is wonderful. Although he is nearly 70, he is at the hospital every morning at 7.30. He visits his cases, delivers lectures, and performs operations till midday. In the afternoon his time is given to his private patients. Five in the evening he is generally at the hospital again. His own private hospital has also to be attended to. And all this is done with the enthusiasm, vitality, and rapidity which is generally associated with youth,



PROFESSOR KOCHER, OF BERNE.

and surgery, have raised him to his present honoured position in the world of medicine.

Kocher's literary works are of great value, especially, perhaps, his writings on military surgery, such as his well-known treatise on modern gunshot wounds. His general surgery is brilliant, but his celebrity is chiefly due to his discoveries in the etiology of the diseases of the thyroid gland and his successful treatment of them. He was the first to attempt operative treatment of goitre. His first operation was performed in the early eighties, and by now he has done over two thousand! He generally uses local anæsthetics for the purpose, as he considers a general one unsuitable.

Patients come to him, not only from Eng-

though many young people are older than Kocher from the time they are born. His bright eyes, quick movements, and speech often make his assistants and nurses wish they could keep pace with him. I was privileged to attend one of Kocher's clinical demonstrations to students in the lecture theatre of the General Hospital at Berne. And here I will incidentally remark that one knows how advanced medical and surgical science is at Berne, and that therefore one regrets the more certain nursing deficiencies. For instance, it struck one's English hospital mind disagreeably on the occasion I am describing, that no nurse remained with the patient. The doors opposite the amphitheatre are flung open, and the

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