

OBITUARY

ROBERT HENRY SCANES SPICER, M.D. (Lond.),
Consulting Surgeon to the Throat Department, St Mary's Hospital.

It is with great regret that we record the death, in his 69th year, of Dr Robert Henry Scanes Spicer, one of the earlier pioneers of laryngology in this country; the death occurred on 18th June at his private residence at Graham Street, Chelsea, after a prolonged illness borne with great fortitude.

He was born at North Molton, Devonshire, in 1857, and was the son of Robert Henry Scanes Spicer, M.D., of North Molton, a well-known physician in that town.

Young Scanes Spicer received his school education at the West Buckland School and South Molton Grammar School; later he entered St Mary's Hospital as a medical student, gaining, in 1877, an Entrance Scholarship in Natural Science. In the same year he took the degree of B.Sc., with honours, at the University of London. In 1878, he obtained the Gold Medal in Botany of the Society of Apothecaries; he became Demonstrator of Anatomy in 1879, and took a Scholarship in Anatomy in 1881. In 1882 he qualified as M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.

Between 1882 and 1883 he held the posts of House-physician, House-surgeon, and Casualty Officer at St Mary's Hospital, and, in 1882, received the degree of M.B. (Lond.), with honours in Medicine, Forensic Medicine, and Chemistry. In 1885, he graduated as M.D., at which date he was holding the appointment of Medical Superintendent of the Fulham Poor Law Infirmary, a position which he occupied from 1884 to 1888. He studied in the leading throat clinics of Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, and, in 1888, was appointed Surgeon-in-charge of the Throat Department at St Mary's Hospital, and Lecturer on Diseases of the Throat and Nose. These appointments, which brought him into intimate association with St Mary's Hospital, he held for twenty years, until 1908, when he was made Consulting Surgeon.

Scanes Spicer took a prominent part in founding the Laryngological Society of London, and was the first Secretary, and subsequently a Vice-President. He was also one of the founders of the Otological Society of the United Kingdom.

He was Honorary Secretary of the Section of Laryngology, British Medical Association in 1890, Vice-President in 1895, and President of the Laryngological and Otological Section at the meeting at Ipswich in 1900. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and of the French Société de Laryngologie.

In 1913, owing to impaired health, he retired from practice, and took up residence at Eastbourne. On the outbreak of the Great War he returned to London to accept a position as Throat and Ear

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Specialist on the Ministry of Pensions' Board at Chelsea, but following a complete breakdown in health in 1922, owing to arterio-sclerosis, he was compelled to relinquish this work.

His literary contributions were many, and were chiefly confined to the surgery and pathology of the nose and throat in relation to obstruction of the nose; to the treatment of chronic disease of the maxillary antrum; and to the nasal relations of asthma. He devoted a large portion of his literary work to original observations on the etiological factors of malignant disease of the throat; on the sites of origin of these growths and their treatment. He published in the *British Medical Journal*, in 1909, an original paper on "Cancer of the Throat," and several other papers on the same subject appeared in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*. He originated some most ingenious theories as to the mechanics of respiration, publishing a paper in the *Lancet*, in 1911, in which he described the topographical anatomy, and the rigid resistance of the larynx and adjacent parts, which he considered bore upon the sites of origin, initiation, and maximum development of cancer of the larynx. His views, however, in connection with posture and respiration as a causative factor of cancer of the throat, were not endorsed by his specialist confrères.

He introduced into this country, simultaneously with Caldwell in New York, and Luc in Paris, the well-known Caldwell-Luc operation for empyema of the maxillary antrum.

Essentially a student, well read in general literature, a good musician, and very hospitable, he made many friends, while his skill as a nasal operator, and in the older indirect method of removing laryngeal growths, acquired for him a large consulting practice in London.

He was prominent, at one time, as a Freemason, being made, in 1897, a Provincial Grand Deacon of Surrey.

He was Honorary Laryngologist to the Royal Society of Musicians, and Consulting Surgeon to the Throat, Nose, and Ear School for the Blind at Leatherhead.

Dr Scanes Spicer married Mary Wilhelmina, daughter of Mr E. H. Huelin, who still survives him. He leaves a son (who was head boy at Eton in 1917, afterwards obtaining a First Class in the Classical Tripos at Cambridge) and two married daughters.

IRWIN MOORE.

THOMAS MARK HOVELL, F.R.C.S. (Edin.),

Consulting Aural Surgeon to the London Hospital; Consulting Surgeon, Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square.

By the death, on 30th June, of Mr Mark Hovell, of 105 Harley Street, and Lemsford, Hatfield, from cerebral hæmorrhage, at the age of 72, the medical profession has lost one of its oldest laryngologists