

OBITUARY

THEODORE HARTMAN JUST, M.B., B.Chir.(Camb.),
F.R.C.S.(Eng.)

MANY professional and athletic friends will have heard with profound regret of the death at the early age of 50 of Theodore Just. He had been ill for about two-and-a-half years, but remained cheerful and optimistic to the end, and finally left work some two months before his death on February 13th.

Born on April 23rd, 1886, he was the only son of Sir Hartman Just of the Colonial Office. He was educated at St. Paul's School where he was distinguished for work and play, and whence he gained an exhibition to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1905. He gained a blue for athletics, representing the University in the half-mile and mile races against Oxford, and was President of the C.U.A.C. in 1908 in which year he won the Amateur Half-Mile Championship of the United Kingdom and took part in the Olympic Games.

Later he won the half-mile four years in succession at the Inter-Hospital Sports, and was Captain of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Rugby XV in 1912, after four years of sterling work as three-quarter. He retained a life-long interest in athletics and cheerfully gave his time to act in an official capacity as referee, judge, time-keeper or starter. Latterly he became an enthusiastic golfer and was Captain of the Old Pauline Golfing Society.

He graduated in 1908 with first-class honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos and went on to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1910 and graduated M.B., B.Chir., at Cambridge in 1912. Owing to the War he was unable to sit for his Final F.R.C.S. until 1919, being duly elected. From 1912-14 he was a Demonstrator of Pathology and Chief Assistant in the Throat Department to Mr. Douglas Harmer, carrying out some researches in the bacteriology of the ear and throat.

At the outbreak of war he obtained a commission in the R.A.M.C. and crossed to France ten days after war was declared. He was demobilized in March, 1919, having served continuously for four-and-a-half years, first at No. 12 General Hospital, Rouen, and later in No. 33 Casualty Clearing Station. He was mentioned in despatches. Those who saw his unselfish and untiring devotion to his work realized what Just gave in that four-and-a-half years.

Obituary

After he was demobilized, he decided to specialize in the surgery of the Throat, Nose and Ear, and brought to his speciality a natural aptitude and keen surgical judgment. He was elected an Assistant Surgeon to the Throat Hospital, Golden Square in 1921, and served that Hospital until 1933, being at one time Dean of the Medical School.

On the retirement of Mr. West, he became Assistant Aural Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's and, after five years, Aural Surgeon with Charge of Out-Patients. He was also Consulting Aural Surgeon to Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital at Alton, The Foundling Hospital, Alexandra Hospital for Hip Disease at Swanley, Harrow Hospital, and the West Suffolk General Hospital. For many years he was Assistant Aural Surgeon to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

He was not a prolific writer but contributed notes on the bacteriology of wounds to the *Journal of the R.A.M.C.*; some notes on the treatment of collapse following operation on the tonsils, and a paper on Vasomotor Rhinitis to the *British Medical Journal*; a valuable paper on the "Diagnosis of Acoustic Tumours", based on thirty-three proved cases seen by himself (*Proc. R.S.M.*, xxiii, 5, 722 *et seq.*), and a paper on "Cystic Serous Meningitis of the Posterior Fossa originating in Otitis Media" (*St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*, 1928). He also wrote an authoritative section on Œsophagoscopy and Bronchoscopy in Carson's (now Grey Turner's) *Modern Operative Surgery*.

His great leaning to the clinical side of his work finds record in the many accounts of cases exhibited at meetings of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine.

His transparent honesty, friendliness and ease of approach gave him a wide circle of friends and made him the confidant of many, and the numerous colleagues who sought his professional help were eloquent tribute to his skill and carefully reasoned and considered opinion.

He was a keen Mason and was Master of the Rahere Lodge in 1930 and, at his death, Chairman of the Chapter.

He married, on April 22nd, 1922, Alice Marie, daughter of H. B. McTaggart, Esq., of Kintyre, Argyllshire.

F.C.W.C.