

Obituary

straightforward. He made his way by steady industry and the unwearied application of his natural ability without the advantages—or disadvantages—of station and fortune, to a position in which he became the trusted co-operator and friend of those who possessed these endowments. Solidity was the characteristic of his work and his views were invariably founded on such well-considered research and reasoning as to convey conviction to those to whom he communicated them.

Macintyre's association with the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* was a very long and faithful one. He contributed many articles to its pages at a time when its circulation was not so large as it now is. In 1891, his name appears as co-editor with that of Dr Norris Wolfenden, one of its founders. At a later period Macintyre became joint-proprietor and editor, with Dr Sandford, Mr Lake, Sir William Milligan and the present writer, and he contributed freely both literary material and financial support.

He was a very active member of the British Laryngological Association founded in 1888, under the ægis of Sir Morell Mackenzie. Macintyre was twice President, in 1893 and again in 1901, a unique distinction in the history of the Society. The Association received many of his scientific contributions, often copiously illustrated by experiments, lantern slides and electrical apparatus.

A cheerful companion, Macintyre became enthusiastic about such sporting events as yacht-racing on the Clyde or evenings in the Art Club of Glasgow of which he was a member. For a number of years he had ceased to visit the meetings of the Section of Laryngology in London, and it is probable that the strenuousness of his earlier life and work had proved too great a strain even on one of his vigorous constitution.

JAMES DUNDAS-GRANT.

GEORGE WILLIAM HILL, M.D., B.Sc. (Lond.),
F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.).

To his intimate friends and colleagues the sudden death of William Hill, on 29th November, must have brought deep feelings of sorrow and to many a sense of personal loss.

His "passing" makes another gap in the ranks of the early pioneers of British Laryngology and Otology, in which for more than forty years he had rendered loyal, faithful and distinguished service.

The following brief outline of his career (*Lancet*, 1st December) gives an excellent estimate of his brilliant career and of his many-sided attainments.

"Born in 1858, William Hill was the son of George Hill, of

Obituary

Tregassick, Cornwall, and had even as a boy the sociable and attractive personality which was to become so well known in professional circles. He was educated at King's College, London, and studied for a brief period at St George's Hospital before entering St Mary's, in 1879, with the Senior Entrance Science Scholarship. He had a brilliant career as a student, taking prizes in physiology, medicine, and surgery, and the scholarship in pathology. He was made demonstrator of histology and biology even before qualification, and during this period, in 1881, took the B.Sc. (Lond.) with honours. He then became junior demonstrator of anatomy and assistant pathologist, qualifying L.S.A. in 1884, and gaining honours in the Final M.B. (Lond.) in 1885. For two years after qualifying Dr Hill practised medicine in Cornwall, but, in 1886, he returned to London and took up throat and ear work, becoming registrar and pathologist at the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital. At the same time he renewed his active connection with the Anatomical Department at St Mary's, holding the post of demonstrator and assistant lecturer in anatomy at the Medical School from 1887 to 1894. His versatility at this period of his career was remarkable, since besides working as clinical assistant in the aural department of the hospital, he acted also as lecturer in botany at University College from 1886 to 1890, in which year he found time to take his M.D. degree. In 1894, he was appointed aural surgeon to St Mary's, and when, in 1908, the ear and throat departments were amalgamated they were placed under Dr Hill's charge. He remained surgeon of the newly formed ear, nose, and throat department at St Mary's for eleven years, and on his retirement, in 1919, was elected consulting surgeon."

I first made his acquaintance more than twenty-five years ago in the early days of the Laryngological Society of London when its meetings took place in 20 Hanover Square, W., and where they continued to be held until the Society became a Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. At intervals during this time William Hill held the various honorary posts of the Section and, in 1914, was elected its President.

As a member of the Council, his colleagues could always depend on his taking a broad, wise and fair view of any matter which came before them for discussion.

Although he was possessed of large practical experience in the whole field of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, his name will always be particularly associated with endoscopy of the oesophagus and the treatment of cancer of that viscus by means of radium. The instruments which he devised for the examination and treatment of this disease were numerous and eminently practical, and will ensure for him a lasting fame. On similar lines and in conjunction with Dr



GEORGE WILLIAM HILL

Obituary

Herschell, he invented an Œsophago-Gastroscope terminating in a periscope, which gives an excellent view of the interior of the stomach. Hill's experience and skill in dealing with œsophageal diseases was so universally recognised that when he retired from St Mary's Hospital he was appointed Endoscopic Surgeon to the Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital.

Passing from his professional attainments, we find him a man of many parts and with varied interests. He was a great reader and there were few subjects upon which, in discussion, he could not hold his own.

Holiday time found him engaged in sea-fishing off his native and beloved coast of Cornwall, or yachting at Ramsgate and sporting the colours of the Royal Temple Yacht Club. But, when his many scientific attainments and hobbies have been forgotten, the remarkable personality of the man will remain in the memory of his intimate friends and colleagues. Under a somewhat brusque manner—which possibly he cultivated—Hill concealed a warm heart which was ever open to the young, the struggler, or to any to whom Fate had been unkind. Only those who knew him well were alive to these traits of his character. To the majority he was known for his kindly, if caustic, humour—a combination which was always a source of merriment to his friends and occasionally of a short-lived misunderstanding to a stranger.

At any meeting of laryngologists and otologists, an inaccurate reference or a slipshod use of anatomical terms would bring our friend to his feet and (with spectacles resting on the lower forehead) the corrective and mirth-provoking lash was administered, but quickly soothed by a laudatory reference to the culprit's many outstanding excellences and his usual accuracy of statement. For these reasons, as well as for the benefit of his experience, we shall sadly miss his presence at the Sections.

To a favoured few will remain still happier recollections of those evenings when, as guests, he asked us to sit at his hospitable board—occasions on which his inimitable type of naive, sometimes *gauche*, but always kindly humour found full play. It was the same at more public festivities, where Hill was always in demand as an after-dinner speaker.

He was a Freemason, and was one of the founders of the Sancta Maria Lodge and its very successful Master in 1912. To his enthusiasm as a Mason, the William Harvey Royal Arch Chapter owed much of its success, and, later on, Dr William Hill was promoted to the rank of Past Grand Deacon of England.

To foreigners, at their first meeting with him, Hill was an amusing human conundrum, who, without any practical knowledge of their

Obituary

language had, nevertheless, an extraordinary faculty for quickly conveying his meaning to them and gaining their friendship.

To his widow we can offer only our sincerest sympathy and assure her that his friends will experience the loss of a distinguished and kindly colleague whose like they will never look upon again..

HERBERT TILLEY.

WILLIAM SMITH KERR, M.B. Edin., F.R.C.S.E.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr William Smith Kerr, Surgeon in charge of the Ear and Throat Department of the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, which occurred at his home in Sheffield, quite unexpectedly, on 26th November last, from pulmonary embolism. He was 59 years of age.

Mr Kerr was a native of Dumfries. He received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh, graduating M.B., C.M., in 1890. He came to Sheffield in 1891 to take up a resident post at the Sheffield Infirmary, and the rest of his life was passed in that city.

In 1904, the Infirmary instituted a special department for diseases of the ear and throat. Mr Kerr was at that time in general practice. His reputation with the board and staff of the institution was such that he was unanimously elected to the charge of the new department, and he thoroughly justified this signal mark of confidence. He enjoyed from the first the esteem of his colleagues, and he gradually established himself in the confidence of the profession and of the people of Sheffield and district. This was accorded to him in increasing measure up to the time of his death. He was remarkably modest and retiring in disposition. He owed his success to hard work, sound judgment and a genuine interest in the welfare of his patients.

The value of the department which he had built up at the Infirmary received public recognition when an entirely new block of buildings, fully equipped for the work of the specialty, was opened at the Infirmary three years ago.

In spite of indifferent health, Mr Kerr served in France from the outbreak of the War, with the rank of Major, R.A.M.C., in command of a field ambulance.

For the last fifteen years he was frequently incapacitated by ill-health, but he laboured on under difficulties, and the amount of work he accomplished was phenomenal. Even during his illnesses, and when suffering severely, his solicitude for his hospital patients was unremitting, and he insisted on being kept informed of the progress of any special cases that might be causing anxiety. When recovering, it was difficult to induce him to remain away from his hospital work