



ALEXANDER ROBERT TWEEDIE

[face p. 347

OBITUARY

ALEXANDER ROBERT TWEEDIE

AURAL surgeons both at home and abroad will join in the widespread regret felt by the general public and by the medical profession in Nottingham, for the sudden death of Mr. A. R. Tweedie on March 18th.

Alexander Robert Tweedie was the third son of the late Alexander Forbes Tweedie, J.P., of Rawlinson, and was born at Bickley, Kent, in 1871. His public school was Repton, and he took his medical training at Bart's. In 1900, he became M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., and in 1901 a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He felt very strongly that every man should serve his country, and his distinguished military career began prior to his adoption of medicine as a profession, when in 1893 he joined the New Zealand Mounted Rifles.

During the South African War he served as a civil surgeon, and on his return he joined the Kent Artillery (Volunteers). On the creation of the Territorials he transferred to the R.A.M.C., and the Ambulance of the Nottinghamshire and Derby Mounted Brigade became one of his chief hobbies, much of his spare time being spent in training recruits, and bringing them up to a high standard of efficiency. He strove for perfection in every military detail, and got it, and it was his delight to help his men and their wives and families in every way he could.

In August 1914, his Brigade was mobilized, and when the Gallipoli Campaign began, he was commanding a large medical organization in Alexandria. Later on he administered a large medical district in Upper Egypt, and commanded the Citadel Hospital in Cairo.

He was senior medical officer of a division at the final assault on Gaza. He was demobilized with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; was mentioned in dispatches, and received the Territorial Decoration. On his retirement some years later from the Territorial Army, he had reached the rank of Colonel.

Early in 1905, after a short period spent in general practice, his inclination led him towards Ear, Throat and Nose work. He became a Junior Clinical Assistant to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear, Golden Square, and soon afterwards settled in Nottingham with the idea of building up a practice in Ear, Throat

Obituary

and Nose work. At that time there were no special departments at the General or Children's Hospital, but in 1908 he was appointed Honorary Assistant Surgeon to the latter, and was then able to study diseases of the Ear, Throat and Nose, while carrying out the general surgical work of his appointment. In 1911 he became Honorary Assistant Surgeon to the Nottingham General Hospital, and in 1919, Honorary Surgeon. During that time he contrived to establish an unofficial department for Diseases of the Ear, Throat and Nose. The actual creation of this Department took place in 1920, and six years later his untiring energy and enterprise were rewarded by the erection of a magnificent Ear, Throat and Nose Unit with forty beds.

In 1920 he was elected to the Nottingham City Council, and served on the Health and other Committees; but the demands of an increasing practice compelled him to retire from civic life after four years of useful work.

At the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. held in Nottingham in 1926, he was Vice-President of the Section of Laryngology and Otology, and in 1928, President of the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society. He held numerous other appointments as Consulting Otologist, and Laryngologist to local institutions, and as a member of the Medical Committee of the National Institute for the Deaf he did yeoman service.

The honour which pleased him more than any other was his election as President of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine, in 1931, and at the time of his death he was Vice-President of the Section of Laryngology. He was co-founder with Professor Benjamins of Groningen, of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum, and for some years had acted as Treasurer, and he was keenly interested in everything connected with it. He was never happier than when planning a visit to a European capital, and he had visited every important aural clinic on the Continent.

The leading aural surgeons there became his personal friends, and he enjoyed their company, and returned their hospitality with obvious pleasure, either at his home or in London.

He was a corresponding member of the Austrian Otological Society, and of the Laryngological Society of Paris Hospitals, and his translations of their work, which appeared with unflinching regularity in the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, were models of brevity and clear conception. This *Journal* had in him a staunch supporter and critic. As a member of the Collaborating Staff he could always be relied on, and his contributions to the *Journal* were noteworthy for their accuracy and perfect English. His name was associated chiefly with his articles on the Labyrinth, and he kept the Section of Otology well informed as to the research work carried on at Utrecht on the Sacculus, Utriculus and allied reflexes.

Obituary

Occasionally he strayed into the realms of Rhinology, and was interested in Nasal Flora, and the reaction of nasal mucus.

It might truly be said of him that he was a man with one hobby, his work, and for many years almost very moment of his spare time was devoted to the welfare of the deaf and dumb.

He was largely instrumental in acquiring excellent premises for the Nottingham and Notts. Institute for the Deaf, and the noble work done there, both by him and by his wife, will never be forgotten.

His appetite for work was insatiable, and this undoubtedly contributed to his sudden death, at a comparatively early age. His heart lay in aural surgery, and his enthusiasm knew no bounds. Younger men from London and the Provinces were frequent visitors to his clinic, and found in him a very real friend and helper. He was naturally kind and sympathetic, and full of humour, and his witty after-dinner speeches will long be remembered.

It was fitting that he should die in the midst of his medical friends, and the crowded church on the occasion of the Memorial Service was the last tribute of the public and of the medical profession to a man who was trusted, loved, and respected.

He is survived by his wife, who is the only daughter of Colonel F. W. Mahin, late American Consul in Nottingham, and by one daughter.

H. BELL-TAWSE.

HENRY BANKS-DAVIS

In the last issue of this *Journal* a well-merited tribute was paid to the memory of the late Sir Charles Ballance, who was justly spoken of as the "great master" of aural surgery in this country, and for all time his name will go down to posterity amongst the most distinguished alumni of St. Thomas's Hospital. In this number we have to regret the passing of one of his most distinguished pupils, Henry John Banks-Davis, whose striking personality was familiar to British otologists and laryngologists during the first quarter of this century.

Our late confrère was one of the remaining few who was fortunate in having had a thorough grounding in general medicine and surgery before confining his practice to diseases of the ear, throat and nose, and, consequently, his mental vision of the "wood" was never obscured by the "trees".

This broad outlook on medicine can be appreciated readily by a glance at his qualifications as recorded in the *Medical Directory*, from which it will be seen that in 1895 he qualified M.R.C.S.(Eng.), M.B., B.Ch. and M.A.(Camb.) and was elected F.R.C.P.(Lond.) in