

William Smith Syme, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.F.P. & S.Glas.

WILLIAM SMITH SYME was born in Newfoundland in 1870, but received both his school and university education in this country. He studied Medicine in Edinburgh, graduating M.B. in 1891 and taking his Doctorate in 1898. After engaging in general practice for a few years, he settled in Glasgow where he turned his attention to the study of diseases of the ear and throat.

Dr Syme's main contribution to the scientific side of the specialty was his work in connection with the anatomy of the nasal air-sinuses, an investigation which was the basis for his election as a Fellow of the Society (1912). With the assistance of Professors Cleland and T. H. Bryce of Glasgow he was able to examine a very large number of human crania and describe the great variations in the development and growth of the sphenoidal and ethmoidal air-cavities and their varying relations to the important nerves and blood vessels in the vicinity. This work was followed by the examination of a further series of skulls in which he demonstrated a number of anatomical points of clinical and surgical significance.

He contributed to the medical journals several papers of practical value. As surgeon to the Glasgow Ear and Throat Hospital and to the Ear and Throat Department of the Western Infirmary, and as lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Dr Syme was a successful surgeon and teacher.

He died on 14th August 1928.

A. L. T.