

## Obituary

F. J. CLEMINSON, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.

We announce with regret that Mr. F. J. Cleminson, the distinguished oto-laryngologist, died from pneumonia on Aug. 21. He was consulting aural surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, and honorary director of research at the Ferens Institute of Oto-laryngology, founded in 1927 by a benefaction of his uncle, the late Right Hon. T. R. Ferens of Hull, chairman of Reckitt and Sons, Ltd., who gave £20,000 to the Middlesex Hospital Medical School for that purpose.

Frederick John Cleminson was born in 1878, son of the Rev. J. R. Cleminson of Hull. From Kingswood School, Bath, he went to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, with a scholarship, and gained first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos, taking his B.A. in 1901 and M.A. in 1904. Between those years Cleminson was a successful coach, living in Caius as Shuttleworth Student. After clinical study at University College Hospital he took the B.Ch. in 1909 and the M.Ch. in 1913, having held several house posts at U.C.H. and a clinical assistantship in the ear and throat department of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. During the last war he served with a temporary commission in the R.A.M.C. in France and Salonika. After his return to civilian life it became clear that his gifts were to find full expression in the specialty to which he gave the rest of his career. In due course he was appointed aural surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital and the Evelina Hospital for Children, and surgeon to the Throat Hospital in Golden Square.

Although private work made heavy claims on his time and energy Cleminson's professional life was centred on the Middlesex Hospital, where his flair for teaching and scientific inquiry proved an inspiration to students and colleagues. The Ferens Institute gave him the means and opportunity for valuable research into the aetiology of diseases of the ear, nose, and throat. The prevention of deafness made a strong appeal to his practical mind, and his command of lucid English was well shown in the article on hearing aids contributed to this *Journal* in 1938 for the series on "Treatment in General Practice." A member of the B.M.A. since 1911 he took an active part in the work of the Hearing Aids Committee, which sat at headquarters from 1937 onwards. He had been secretary of the Section of Otology at the Annual Meeting of the Association in 1922, and vice-president of the Section of Oto-rhino-laryngology in 1929; he was also a past-president of the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. Early in 1938 he found the strain of operating practice too much and devoted himself to academic study and research. The war cut down these activities through the enforced closure of the Ferens Institute, with which the name of F. J. Cleminson will always be associated as its moving spirit and first director of research.

We are indebted to a friend and colleague for the following tribute:

Although his health, originally undermined at Salonika, had been deteriorating for several years and he had for long been more and more restricting his activities, the death of "Clem" will bring sorrow to many, for among his numerous admirable qualities loyalty to his friends was not the least. Another was his genuine and deep affection for children, for whom he had real understanding, and although the work which he finally adopted was mainly surgical he would probably have been happier as a physician. At heart he was a physiologist, and he has been incorrectly described as a demonstrator of anatomy at Cambridge. He taught physiology there for several years before he qualified, so that he completed his hospital training rather late. It was therefore not until the close of the war of 1914-18 that he had finally to settle upon some definite line, and the aural departments at U.C.H., under Herbert Tilley, and at Middlesex gave him his opportunity. It was, however, the physiology of the ear rather than its surgery which really interested him. Of aural neurology and everything connected with the problems of deafness he had a profound knowledge, though he did very little himself that was original. His great contribution was the foundation of the Ferens Institute, and he had the instinct of collecting the right men to work there. His administrative capacity, with the pathological, histological, and photographic technique of which Albert Gray was master, made a perfect combination, and enabled Gray to produce some of his finest work. Though both have gone,

the foundation was well laid and the work will surely continue with success in other hands.

For a few years Magnus and De Kleyn made Utrecht the Mecca of those interested in the physiology of the ear, and this soon attracted "Clem," who made many pilgrimages to Holland. De Kleyn, still at work in Amsterdam, remained always one of his closest friends, and with the late Prof. Benjamins and Gray they founded the Collegium, an international club which had its headquarters at Gröningen. This institution, now rendered inanimate by war, was dear to "Clem," who was indeed filled with admiration for everything Dutch. Although he wrote very little and was too shy to speak in public, even at a professional meeting, if he could possibly avoid it, he yet managed to do a vast amount to promote the activity and advancement of his own branch and to alleviate the trials of the deaf. This brought him a wide and well-merited reputation. His gentle nature was lacking in the ruthless streak required of the successful surgeon, but he was much loved by his patients and still more by his friends. He knew everything about sailing, almost everything about motor-cars, a great deal about birds; he enjoyed a shoot, and dispensed an elegant hospitality in which the true kindness of his character showed itself. Had it not been for an excess of modesty he might have occupied an even higher professional position than he actually attained.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

On the occasion of President Roosevelt's visit to Ottawa on Aug. 25 the Chancellor of the University of London, the Earl of Athlone, on behalf of the Senate, conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*. An Oration was read by Dr. C. H. Best, F.R.S., professor of physiology at the University of Toronto.

### UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

A course of five lectures on "Heating, Lighting, and Ventilation" for industrial medical officers will be held at the Medical School, Hospitals Centre, Birmingham 15, from Sept. 20 to 24 inclusive; they will be given at 4 p.m. in the Physiology Lecture Theatre. On Sept. 20 and 21 Dr. T. Bedford will lecture on "Heating and Ventilation," and on Sept. 22 on "The Determination and Control of Atmospheric Pollution." On Sept. 23 Mr. H. C. Weston will lecture on "Sufficient Lighting—Illumination and Visual Capacity for Work," and on Sept. 24 on "Suitable Lighting—Environmental Brightness, Glare, Diffusion and Shadow, Colour." The fee for the course is £1 1s., which is payable in advance to the Secretary of the University, Edmund Street, Birmingham. Nurses engaged in industry are invited to join the course at a fee of 5s.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Court of Assistants held on Aug. 17 Sir Stanley Woodwork was elected Master for his third consecutive year of office, Dr. J. P. Hedley Senior Warden, and Dr. Hugh F. Powell Junior Warden.

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners in the subjects indicated:

**PATHOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY, AND FORENSIC MEDICINE.**—D. A. Cox, C. M. F. Fiducia, I. D. Henderson, J. R. S. Jackson, M. W. Johnston, J. M. Macdonald, J. Middleton, J. C. F. Poole, A. M. Rajah, N. Sachse, J. R. S. Scarlett, J. C. Stevens, M. N. Tata, J. K. Wilson.

**SURGERY.**—D. A. Cox, B. A. Gould, R. K. Haslam, R. J. H. Hodges, R. J. C. Hutchinson, T. Y. Martin, J. C. F. Poole, A. M. Rajah, N. Sachse, J. R. Sugden, W. M. Thomas, J. K. Wilson.

**MEDICINE.**—M. A. Hamdy, J. M. Macdonald, J. C. F. Poole, C. D. Sanders, N. Sachse, J. H. S. Scarlett, R. N. Theakston, W. M. Thomas, J. K. Wilson.

**MIDWIFERY.**—S. R. Abrams, M. Benjamin, A. E. Bernstein, P. D. Bryant, K. R. J. Coates, D. I. T. Edwards, T. H. Eustace, C. C. Gould, E. D. C. Jones, R. A. Leeming, H. R. Mohammed, J. C. F. Poole, A. M. Rajah, N. Sachse, W. M. Thomas, J. K. Wilson, H. M. Wolff.

The Diploma of the Society was granted to I. D. Henderson, B. A. Gould, G. R. S. Jackson, J. M. Macdonald, J. C. F. Poole, A. M. Rajah, N. Sachse, C. D. Sanders, J. H. S. Scarlett, W. M. Thomas, and J. K. Wilson.

## The Services

Surg. Cmdr. F. E. Stabler, R.N.V.R., has been awarded the R.N.V.R. Officer's Decoration.

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

**Presumed Killed in Action at Sea.**—Major R. Clarke, R.A.M.C. **Prisoners of War.**—Lieut. S. Campbell, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. M. C. Dickson, R.A.M.C., Temp. Major J. L. Gilloran, R.A.M.C., Fl. Lieut. A. N. H. Peach, R.A.F.V.R., Lieut. D. R. McPherson, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. A. W. G. Sutherland, R.A.M.C. **Died.**—Major H. N. Osborne, R.A.M.C., Capt. R. Wilson, R.A.M.C.