

William Hunter, C.B., M.D., LL.D.

WILLIAM HUNTER was born at Ballantrae, Ayrshire, in 1861, and died in London on January 13, 1937. After graduating as M.B., C.M., at Edinburgh in 1883, when he was awarded the Ettles Scholarship as the first student of his year, he was elected a President of the Royal Medical Society and acted as a Resident House Physician in the Royal Infirmary. He studied in the Pathological Laboratory at Leipzig in 1884, and in 1886 received a Gold Medal for his M.D. thesis upon the Physiology and Pathology of Blood Transfusion and the fate of extravasated blood. Later he held a Research Scholarship of the Grocers Society, and from 1887 to 1890 the John Lucas Walker whole-time Research Scholarship at Cambridge. It was then that he carried out his experimental work on pernicious anæmia, and at that time it looked as if he might devote his life to experimental pathology. But this was not to be, for in 1889, after delivering the Arris and Gale lectures before the Royal College of Surgeons of England, he passed the examination for the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of London, was soon after appointed an assistant physician to the London Fever Hospital and to Charing Cross Hospital, and commenced practice as a consulting physician. In 1896 he was elected to the Fellowship of the London College.

Hunter's name is especially associated with pernicious anæmia, in the etiology of which he believed that oral and gastric sepsis play an important part. His researches were a notable contribution to the clinical and gross pathological aspects of this disease.

As President of the Advisory Committee to the Eastern Mediterranean and Mesopotamia Expeditionary Forces from 1915-17, and later as consultant to the Eastern Command, he did important work for which he was awarded the C.B. and a high Serbian decoration—that of Grand Officer in the Order of St Sava. His Alma Mater conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1927.

Devoted to the Medical School of his adoption, where he enjoyed exceptional popularity, alike with colleagues and students, his History of the Charing Cross Hospital and Medical School was a valuable addition to the annals of his profession. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1887.

E. B.