

OBITUARY

CHARLES PARKER, F.R.C.S. Edin.

CHARLES PARKER was a student of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, ending a successful career there as House Surgeon to Sir William Savory. Later he was appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Throat Hospital in Golden Square. Soon after he married, and commenced general practice in Rickmansworth but retained his connection with Golden Square as a clinical assistant. I first met him in 1892, and we have been close friends ever since. As Resident Medical Officer he had so gained the esteem and friendship of the medical staff—he was equally popular with the nursing staff and patients—that as soon as a vacancy occurred on the honorary staff he was elected Assistant Surgeon, and later Surgeon to the Hospital. He held this appointment for twenty-five years, was for many years Dean of the Medical Council and also served on the Lay Committee. Later in life he was a popular President of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine. Parker worked hard as Dean, was a good organizer and successful teacher. In all matters he was loyal to his colleagues and, although he held strongly to somewhat unusual and often provocative opinions, he never to my knowledge made an enemy amongst them. This was the more remarkable in that rather heated controversies were not unknown at the Hospital in those early days. Perhaps his chief weakness sprang from his sympathy with the under-dog and his desire to help all those who worked under him, which may have led him occasionally to advocate unsuitable promotions. Also, always open and straightforward himself, he was too little suspicious of guile in others.

When Charles Parker took up laryngology it was mainly in the hands of physicians, few of whom ever attempted to perform any but the simplest operations. Very soon afterwards the speciality became a recognized branch of surgery, and surgeons were taking it up. At the time of his staff appointment, Parker had given up the practice of surgery for some years: he was diffident as to his surgical capabilities, and consequently he never undertook the larger surgical procedures which soon became the common work of his colleagues. He performed neatly and successfully all the smaller operations on the nose and throat to which he was accustomed. His keenest interest was in medical treatment and in the care of the individual patient; in this he excelled, and his chief

Obituary

work, *Guide to Diseases of the Nose and Throat and their Treatment*, was a valuable contribution to the subject. His chief original work was some observations on the air currents in nasal respiration. His private practice was never large, but his patients trusted him and many became his personal friends. That he did not attain the full success he merited may have been partly due to the fact that he scorned any effort to pose as the successful consultant and refused to conform in such matters as dress with the strict conventionalities of the Victorian age.

Of his political and other activities others can speak with more knowledge. He was a keen supporter of the Socialist Labour Party and took a great interest in the municipal affairs of High Wycombe. His social interests and beliefs were shared to the full by his wife. He bore a long and painful illness with unflinching courage, although his restricted activities were made harder to bear by increasing loss of sight. To the end he retained his cheerfulness, his interest in current affairs and his sympathy with the under-dog. Those who knew him best valued his friendship most.

H. LAMBERT LACK.

DUNBAR ROY (Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.)

WELL known in Europe and very popular in his own country, America has lost an Oto-Laryngologist of great repute. There he held many prominent positions and his high standing was emphasized by his election in 1935 to the Presidency of that very select body,—the American Laryngological Association. He and his very attractive wife were widely known as gracious personalities with the social ease and pleasant voice and manners of the natives of the Southern States. In their visits to Europe they were not mere globe-trotters, but had a close association with the personalities, the art, and the culture of various countries on this side. Dr. Dunbar Roy's contributions to literature were not numerous but they emphasized, as personal contact with him soon showed, his sincerity and sound judgment.

StC.T.