

OBITUARY

NORMAN PATTERSON, F.R.C.S.

By the death of Norman Patterson the specialty has lost a distinguished member. After working in the anatomical department he was appointed to the staff of the London Hospital; he kept alive the high reputation of the E.N.T. department established by various predecessors—Lambert Lack and Hunter Tod amongst them. He soon became recognized as an outstanding figure with an original mind. A first-rate operator he developed a technique for removal of growths in the mouth and pharynx by the use of diathermy; in many of what would commonly be regarded as hopeless cases Patterson achieved brilliant results; as a development he originated a method of plastic repair after removal of growths invading the cheek. This work was widely recognized and led to an invitation to lecture on and demonstrate his methods in the U.S.A. Later he turned his attention to the treatment of chronic sinusitis, especially ethmoid and frontal sinus suppuration, and devised an ingenious approach through the face, which allowed easy exenteration of the ethmoid cells; in his hands results were admirable and the scar invisible. Patterson lived at Ashridge Park and during the war, owing to transport difficulties, he had to give up his visits to the London Hospital, but he continued to work energetically at the Royal Bucks Hospital at Aylesbury to which he had been consultant for some years. Patterson was versatile and had many interests besides medicine: gardening, bee-keeping and carpentry; he invented and constructed a hive to lodge three separate swarms; he was no mean painter and in recent years showed several pictures at the annual exhibition of the Medical Art Society.

An original member of the Visiting Association of British E.N.T. Surgeons, he was a regular attendant at the foreign and home meetings and his charming personality enhanced the pleasure of his friends at those meetings.

Patterson will be missed by many friends and our sympathy goes to his widow and daughter.

G. EWART MARTIN, F.R.C.S.Ed.

DR. GEORGE EWART MARTIN, senior ear, nose and throat surgeon to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and senior lecturer on otolaryngology at Edinburgh University, died on March 27th, at the age of 61, from the effects of an obscure type of aplastic anæmia which frequent blood transfusions and a final splenectomy had failed to control. Although he was no ultra-specialist, and his wise counsel on general medical affairs was welcome in many important quarters, Ewart Martin was best known as an endoscopist, one of the leading exponents of broncho-oesophagology in Britain and, indeed, in Europe. His old chief, Logan Turner of Edinburgh, was the first bronchoscopist in Britain (1902), having been a disciple of Killian of Freiburg, "the father of bronchoscopy", who began to give up his whole time to endoscopy in 1896. Logan Turner persuaded Ewart Martin in 1920 to take a post-graduate course at Philadelphia under Professor Chevalier Jackson, being the first British post-graduate to do so.

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He returned to Edinburgh full of enthusiasm and admiration, and in after years never found any necessity to depart from Jackson's principles or from the design of his instruments. Ewart Martin's writings were mainly on endoscopic subjects, by the middle of 1947 (as he stated in a paper) he had personal records of 4,040 endoscopic cases, and among other advances he was the first to treat bronchiectasis by bronchoscopic lavage, not (as was sometimes assumed) as a cure, but because he believed that lobectomy or pneumonectomy should not be attempted until the rest of the chest was entirely clear. He was invited to address the Section of Otolaryngology at the centenary meeting of the American Medical Association in 1947, and to give the Semon Lecture at the University of London in 1948; on each occasion he spoke on broncho-oesophagology, regretting that in many centres it appeared to be passing from the hands of the laryngologist into the hands of the thoracic surgeon, and pointing out that the foreign body emergencies still came to the ear, nose and throat departments and that the teaching of the subject must remain with the laryngologists.

George Ewart Martin was a native of Inverness and educated at Inverness Royal Academy and Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.A. in 1910 and M.B., Ch.B., in 1913. After resident posts he went to France in 1914 as a surgical specialist in a casualty clearing station, but eventually became one of the first ear, nose and throat specialists in the R.A.M.C. After the war he began his long connection with the ear, nose and throat department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary as clinical assistant to Logan Turner, taking the F.R.C.S.Edin. in 1920. Besides his teaching appointments already mentioned, Ewart Martin held consulting appointments at Bangour Hospital, Kirkcaldy Hospital and Kelso Hospital. He was adviser in otolaryngology to the Department of Health for Scotland, consultant aural surgeon to the Ministry of Pensions, a member of various committees of the Medical Research Council, a member of the Faculty of Medicine of Edinburgh University, and a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He had been President of the Scottish Otolological and Laryngological Society, and President of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Ewart Martin was an unmistakable Scot, good-natured and with a boyish sense of humour, a non-smoker and teetotaler, an Elder of West St. George's Church, an old-fashioned Liberal, apt to be a little ruffled if he thought Scottish interests in any subject were being neglected or pushed aside. He was excellent in committee, where his practical common-sense was always valued, though he held his opinions firmly and on occasion his comment could be blunt. He was a sound clinician and a dexterous operator, but he had no exaggerated ideas about the amount of otolaryngology that medical students could absorb in three months and was perhaps at his best with young post-graduates, to whom he was a constant stimulus as well as a kind friend and adviser. The Consultant Otolologists to the Army and to the R.A.F. have each asked that it should be put on record that both Services owed a great deal to Ewart Martin for his friendly advice and for his training of many young specialists in his department at Edinburgh. He is survived by a widow, two young married daughters and two sons, with whom there will be widespread sympathy in their untimely loss.