

OBITUARY

CHARLES JOSEPH HEATH, F.R.C.S.—(1856-1934)

MR. CHARLES HEATH had the talent of making friends among his colleagues, even if they differed from him in regard to the call for operative interference and its nature. His whole-hearted insistence on the correctness of his views on otology was part of his nature and he was just as insistent in his views on wild-fowl shooting and other forms of sport. His enthusiasm for inventing mastoid instruments was intense and perhaps exaggerated, but this, again, was Heath, and it extended to the implements for sport as well as to the gas-masks necessitated by the horrible methods of modern warfare. His essentially sanguine disposition explains the peculiarities of his personality and the attraction he had for his many friends, including those who declined to share his views. His manual dexterity was undeniable and a distinguished member of our Section stated that, if he were himself concerned, he would have another opinion as to the necessity for operation, but would confidently entrust Mr. Heath with its performance.

This is not the occasion for analysing views which have been freely praised and criticized in comparatively recent times. It suffices to say that Heath's name has a place in the history of otology: and the modified radical mastoid operation, though not unknown to other operators at home and abroad, was accepted as a stereotyped procedure, mainly through Charles Heath's advocacy.

Of the numerous instruments which he invented, some were undoubtedly modifications, sometimes slight, sometimes considerable, but always ingenious, and all operators have in their equipment something at least of Heath's, whether it be a gouge, a probe, a punch-forceps or some other instrument. Sportsmen will remember him for his gun, soldiers for his gas-mask, and many friends for his infectious animation and fundamental goodness of heart. Even those whose views differed most widely from his, entertained for him a warm and even affectionate regard.

JAMES DUNDAS-GRANT.

GENERAL NOTES

SCOTTISH OTOLOGICAL AND LARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Society offers a prize of £20 for the best piece of Clinical or Laboratory research work in Oto-Laryngology. The prize is open to Clinical Tutors, Clinical Assistants and House Surgeons attached to the Clinics of Ordinary and Corresponding Members of the Scottish Society, and to those Members of the Scottish Society of not more than ten years' standing as Specialists. Further particulars of the prize may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Chas. E. Scott, 33 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 12, and all papers embodying the research work must be sent to him not later than April 1st, 1935.