

OBITUARY

MR. LIONEL COLLEDGE

It is with very great regret that we have to record the death on December 19th, 1948, of Mr. Lionel Colledge at the age of 65. In him we lose one of the leading specialists in diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear in this country.

The son of Major John Colledge, he was educated at Cheltenham College and Caius College, Cambridge. He completed his medical training at St. George's Hospital qualifying in 1908 and obtaining the M.B., B.Ch. in 1910, and the diploma of F.R.C.S.(England) a year later. He was appointed assistant aural surgeon to St. George's Hospital, and assistant surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square, before he reached the age of thirty. His early career was interrupted by the 1914-1918 war in which he served first in command of a casualty clearing station and later as aural surgeon to the First Army. On his return to civil life he devoted himself to the service of his hospitals and began his long association with the Royal Society of Medicine. As honorary secretary, first of the Section of Otology, and then of the Section of Laryngology of that Society he came into close association in the first of these capacities with Sir Charles Ballance, and then in the second with Sir StClair Thomson. With Ballance he carried out the important work in the repair of nerve injury as applied to the larynx and to the face whilst his collaboration with StClair Thomson on cancer of the Larynx brought fame to them both and enabled him to become one of the greatest exponents of the surgery of the throat. The rules of St. George's Hospital, to which he had given long and distinguished service, made it necessary for him to retire from it at the height of his professional ability, but he continued his work at Golden Square and as senior surgeon there took a leading part in the amalgamation of it with the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, to form the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital with its associated Institute of Laryngology and Otology. His election to the staff of the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, and as consultant to the Cancer Hospital gave him further scope for his activities and research and at a later date he became throat surgeon to the Freemasons' Hospital and the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

He became President of both the Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine in turn and continued to represent the Section of Laryngology on the editorial committee of the Society until his death.

He was Semon lecturer in Laryngology at the University of London and Lettsomian Lecturer at the Medical Society of London.

He wrote much in an excellent literary style and his wide knowledge of the literature of his specialty gave the stamp of authority to his articles.

Of the man himself it is difficult to write. His life and interest was almost entirely in his work and he permitted himself few relaxations from it, but he

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enjoyed travel to foreign capitals and clinics and it was my fortune on many occasions to be his companion on various expeditions either with the visiting association of British Throat and Ear surgeons or alone with him and though it may be said that he was difficult to know, his friendship, once attained, was something to be valued and to be proud of, and the simplicity and directness of his character could not fail to make a most sympathetic appeal. The tragedy of the loss of his only son, killed flying in the R.A.F. in the late war, and his own crippling illness of the last two years adds poignancy to his untimely end.

W.G.H.