

OBITUARY

SIR JAMES DUNDAS-GRANT

WITH the death of Sir James Dundas-Grant one of the best known names in British Otology and Laryngology has passed into history. It is astonishing over how long a period his career extended. He had already been in general practice when he took up his specialty in 1886 and more than 50 years later he was still a prominent figure at all assemblies of throat and ear surgeons.

James Dundas-Grant was born in Edinburgh in 1854, the son of a Scottish advocate. He received his education at Edinburgh Academy and then went to Dunkirk College in France. After this he entered Edinburgh University where he took his M.A. degree in 1873 and spent some time at the University of Würzburg in Bavaria before coming to London and entering St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a medical student. He qualified in 1876, took the Edinburgh M.D. with honours in 1879 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1890. In 1879 he was appointed Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital an appointment he continued to hold until 1913 when, retiring under the age limit, he became Consulting Surgeon. He also held appointments at the Brompton Hospital, the Cancer Hospital and the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

He was an excellent teacher and his retentive memory of cases enabled him to draw from a large variety of clinical material. He was immensely interested in instruments and invented many, of which his aural probe and the cold air douche for labyrinth testing are probably the best known. He was a prolific contributor to medical journals on the subject of ear and throat disease and a most regular attendant at meetings when he rarely missed an opportunity of intervening in debate and enriching it with something from his own experience. One of his most striking attributes was his very great knowledge of the literature of ear, nose and throat disease. Nothing seemed to escape his notice and he was always anxious to try new methods in diagnosis and treatment.

During the War 1914-1918 Dundas-Grant was otologist and laryngologist to the King George Military Hospital and to numerous officers hospitals. In 1917 he became a specialist on the Aural Council and director of the Special Aural Clinics of the Ministry of Pensions, a post he retained until 1920, when he became Senior Consultant to the Ministry and was created a Knight.

Another office in which he took particular delight was that of Surgeon to the Royal Academy of Music. He was an enthusiastic musician and enjoyed nothing more than conducting an orchestra. Dundas-Grant had many international contacts. He was an honorary member of the American Laryngological Association and also of the societies of Otologists and Laryngologists in France, Belgium, Italy and Austria. He had been President of the Section of Otology and Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine and of the British Medical Association.

With his friendly Scots voice, his store of learning and his interest in everything and everybody he was one of the personalities of London Medicine and dying at the age of 90 will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues.