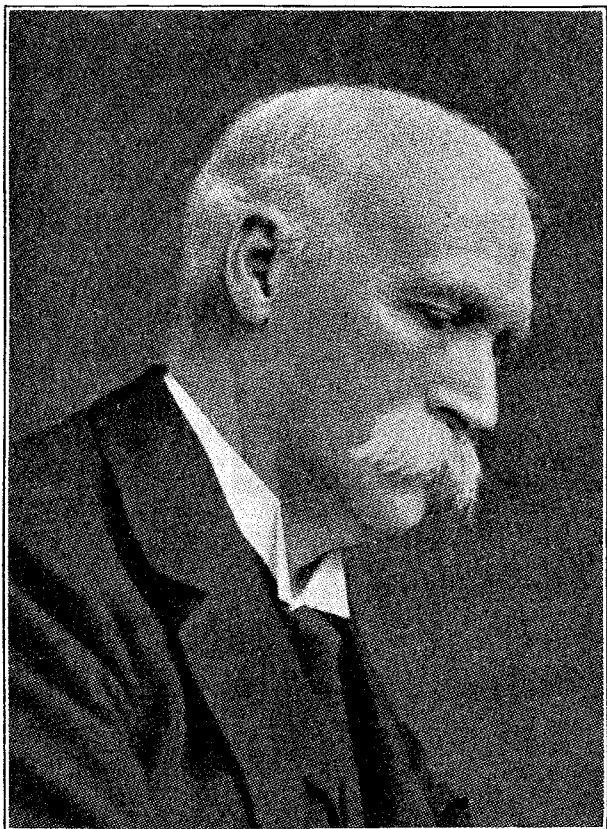


Obituary.

SIR WILLIAM MACEWEN, F.R.C.S. ENG. & IREL.,
F.R.F.P.S. GLASG., F.R.S., D.C.L., &c., C.B.,
REGIUS PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

WE much regret to announce the death of the famous surgeon and professional leader, Sir William Macewen, which occurred on Saturday last, March 22nd, at his residence in Glasgow, in his seventy-sixth year.

William Macewen was born on June 22nd, 1848, his father being in the mercantile marine, and at one time master of a yacht, while he was also engaged in commercial undertakings in Rothesay. The great surgeon was the youngest child of a large family and his



SIR WILLIAM MACEWEN.

early life was passed in modest circles. After elementary instruction in Rothesay, he completed his education at the Collegiate School at Glasgow before entering the University. Without obtaining academic honours he worked steadily, and by the time he was of age he had graduated at the University as M.B., C.M. After holding residential appointments, including the house surgeoncy at the Royal Infirmary under Sir George Macleod, he proceeded in 1872 to the M.D. degree, and then for a period he studied at some of the big schools on the continent. Returning to Glasgow he went into private practice and had excellent experience in dispensary work. His chance came when he was elected assistant surgeon to the Royal Infirmary. He had now become an ardent disciple of Listerian principles, perceiving that in every direction they promised untold developments in surgical theory and practice. He had benefited alike by his own practical work and by the excellent training at the University, which enabled him to absorb the lessons and take advantage of the opportunities which the rising science of bacteriology held out. Allan Thompson, Andrew Buchanan, and William Tennant Gairdner were among his teachers, while Lister was engaged in his famous work, first at Glasgow and later at Edinburgh, at the very period when Macewen was inaugurating his great career.

Macewen seems to have been always, though deeply indebted to his training, an independent thinker, and

it was during his period of general dispensary practice in Glasgow that he laid the foundation of his clinical knowledge and obtained the resourcefulness that ever marked his practice. His appointment to the Royal Infirmary gave him an opening, which was made wider in a very short period by his becoming in 1877 full surgeon to the institution. This post he held for 15 years, when he succeeded Sir George Macleod, his former teacher, as Regius Professor of Surgery. On the scene of Lister's earliest triumphs—which, it may be added, attracted at first no great attention—Macewen steadily carried out a wonderful work, developing and modifying the antiseptic treatment and becoming a pioneer in particular of brain surgery. The work of Hughlings Jackson and David Ferrier, pre-eminently among others, had brought out the main principles of brain localisation, and Macewen was amongst the first to envisage the possibilities which this knowledge offered under proper application of aseptic methods.

He was probably the first to practise brain surgery in the modern sense of the word, as apart from trephining for injury. In the *Glasgow Medical Journal* of 1879 he published a paper describing how a tumour of the dura mater which had been attended with convulsions was removed after opening the skull with completely satisfactory results. Further contributions followed in THE LANCET on similar work, a paper on monoplegia of the left arm and leg due to cortical lesion forming a good example of his clinical methods; and in 1883 he delivered an address at a meeting in Glasgow of the British Medical Association, taking as his subject the surgery of the brain and spinal cord, which placed him at once in the front rank of surgery throughout the world. The whole subject of brain surgery, as well as his own personal share in its development, was made the subject of his presidential address before the Association in 1922. This contribution to medical science and medical history was published in the *British Medical Journal* and in our own columns, and showed alike how brain surgery had developed pari passu with the efforts of such bold thinkers and expert workers as Ferrier, Horsley, Beevor, Godlee, Gowers, Mott, and Ballance, and how great and independent a place the speaker had himself taken in the work.

Although Macewen's name is mainly associated with brain surgery he was in no sense a specialist, and, as a matter of fact, his earliest work to attract outside attention was in the direction of orthopædics. As early as 1878 a paper was published by him in our columns upon antiseptic osteotomy for genu valgum and genu varum, and other papers followed upon the surgical treatment of osseous deformities and their remedy. He was an innovator in the correction of faulty union of long bones, his method of refracture necessitating a new technique. His success in osteotomies for defective limbs brought about valuable modifications in the operative procedure for various forms of talipes, previously met in an unsatisfactory manner by tenotomies, while his work in bone transplantation was also original, and, both in his hands and as developed in the hands of others, has proved a valuable branch of conservative surgery. A monograph which he published some ten years ago on the development of bones proved the independence and boldness of his views in this province of his science, and the same features marked his work on the surgery of the lung, and the technique which he laid down for dealing with various forms of hernia.

As professor of surgery in Glasgow, Macewen was a great and practical success. He was a man with large views and unsparing of his own time, strength, and money, and he soon got around him brilliant assistants and eager pupils, while honours accumulated thick upon him. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, he received honorary Fellowships from the Royal Colleges of Surgeons both in England and in Ireland; he was a D.Sc. of Oxford and Dublin, a D.C.L. of Durham, and an LL.D. of Glasgow and Liverpool. He was elected to the honorary membership of Imperial or Royal Academies and national scientific

societies in France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Russia, and the United States, and became President of the International Association of Surgery in 1921. In the following year he was knighted and was elected President of the British Medical Association, being largely responsible for the great success which attended the meeting at Glasgow in that year. He was Honorary Surgeon to the King in Scotland. He received a knighthood in 1902, and was also appointed C.B.

During the war he was one of the first consultants to be appointed by the medical department of the Royal Navy, and was associated from the beginning with the scheme for the establishment of the Home for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers at Erskine. His last journey was undertaken as ambassador of the British Medical Association to the Australasian Medical Congress at Melbourne in November, 1923.

In Macewen the scientific world has lost a great man, who arrived at the head of a learned profession with no extraneous advantages, but by unflinching study and a brave use of unfettered judgment. And his personal appearance coincided exactly with this character. Very tall, handsome, and grave, he commanded without seeking it the immediate attention which philosophers less well endowed physically must struggle to obtain. We reproduce with permission the portrait which appeared in the *British Medical Journal* in October, 1922.

Sir William Macewen married Mary, daughter of Hugh Allan, of Govanhill, by whom he had six children, three daughters and three sons. And it may be mentioned that all the sons entered the medical profession, two being decorated for war work. He was throughout his busy life devoted to the countryside of his birth, and it was a source of real gratification to him when the freedom of the borough of Rothesay was conferred upon him in the courtyard of the ancient castle ruins. In his later years he had purchased a property in Kingarth, where he became a scientific and successful farmer as well as a keen researcher on many biological and veterinary problems. A good example of his fruitful interest in such by-paths was furnished by his study of the antlers of the deer, which was an elaborate essay on bone physiology.

HENRY RUNDLE, F.R.C.S. ENG.

Henry Rundle, consulting surgeon to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, died on March 19th at Southsea in his eightieth year. Rundle began his medical study as apprentice to the late Mr. W. J. Square, of Plymouth, going on to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, whence he became M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1865 and F.R.C.S. in 1870. In the latter year the British Red Cross Society sent out six surgeons to the aid of sick and wounded on either side in the Franco-Prussian War, and Rundle was selected as one of them, proceeding with Mr. W. E. B. Atthill and Mr. J. C. Galton to Berlin first and then to the "Alice" Hospital at Darmstadt, founded under the auspices of Princess Louise of Hesse-Darmstadt (Princess Alice of England), which provided a reserve hospital for the Hessian Division of the Prussian Army. Rundle also served for a time in the neighbourhood of Strasbourg, towards the end of the historic siege of that city, which he entered very shortly after its capitulation. For his services to the wounded of both German and French armies, Rundle received the German War Medal, the Hessian Cross, and also the French War Medal. He was probably the only recipient of both French and German war medals in Europe.

On returning to England after the war Rundle became house surgeon to the Royal Hants County Hospital at Winchester, proceeding thence to Southsea, where he settled down in general practice and commenced his long association with the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, first as assistant surgeon and then as surgeon, retiring in 1908 but remaining in a consulting capacity. His health was latterly feeble and he led a quiet retired life—he was a bachelor—during the last 14 or 15 years, but retained his mental vigour to the end. He was the author of

"With the Red Cross in the Franco-German War," and for many years a valued contributor to our columns on matters of local interest.

Of a peculiarly honest, plain-spoken, and kindly disposition, Henry Rundle made firm friendships and won general respect and esteem. The Royal Portsmouth Hospital loses in him a devoted friend.

THOMAS HILL JAMIESON, M.D., M.R.C.P. EDIN.

Dr. T. H. Jamieson, Deputy Commissioner of Medical Services in Tropical Disease under the Ministry of Pensions, whose death occurred recently in London at the age of 50, was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, where he qualified M.B., C.M. in 1894, and there later he gained the degree of M.D. He also was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1915. After holding his first appointments as house surgeon to the Huddersfield Infirmary and then to the Children's Hospital, Liverpool, he went to the Far East and settled in Penang, Straits Settlements, where he built up an extensive practice. After many years of strenuous work in the tropics his health began to fail, and he finally returned to England in 1917. He was rejected for service abroad, but was appointed to the Fourth London General Hospital R.A.M.C.(T.) as specialist in malaria and other tropical diseases. In 1919, having obtained the D.P.H. London, he joined the medical staff of the Ministry of Pensions, where, in virtue of his special knowledge of tropical disease, he held the appointment of deputy commissioner with administrative charge of the tropical clinics in the S.E. region. Later he became visiting physician to the Ministry's Hospital at Orpington, Kent, and to Queen's Hospital, Sidcup. For his services he gained the honour of M.B.E.

A friend on the Pensions medical staff writes:—

"Dr. Jamieson was outstanding in his clinical judgment and acumen, and enthusiastic in all his work. By his unfailing courtesy and kindness he won the confidence of colleagues, staff, and patients, many of whom at their own request attended his funeral service at Golders Green. His broad sympathies and wide outlook on the problems of the day, with all the political questions so immediately affecting national life, made him a companion to be sought and prized. Politically he inclined to many of the aspirations of the Labour Party."

To his widow we extend our sincere sympathy.

HERBERT LEYLAND SACKETT, M.B., B.S. LOND., F.R.C.S. ENG.

Mr. H. L. Sackett, clinical assistant, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, died on March 21st after a very brief illness, at the age of 30. Vigorously pursuing his surgical work until midnight on March 13th, he complained of feeling very ill and had a rigor. It was then discovered that one thumb was inflamed. Treatment was immediately carried out, but despite all efforts the trail of septicæmic symptoms followed. The tragedy was heightened by the fact that in another ward of the hospital lay his father, the Rev. Walter Sackett, suffering from erysipelas. Father and son died within a few hours of each other. As a boy Mr. Sackett suffered from spinal trouble and for months laid recumbent. During this time his ever active mind was gleaned lore of every kind. His years at St. Bartholomew's were years of triumph. As a student he won the Bentley prize; he became a house surgeon, and later intern midwifery assistant. Last year he gained his F.R.C.S., obtained a research scholarship, and has been engaged for many months in original work on intestinal obstruction. In January of this year he was appointed a surgical clinical assistant. He was for more than two years editor of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, and as a student was President of the Christian Union.

Mr. Sackett was not only a surgeon of great promise, but a man of the highest type. His kindness endeared him to his patients, and his amazing thoroughness and devotion to duty caused him to be deeply respected by all who came in touch with him.