

OBITUARY

NICOL MACNICOL RANKIN, M.C.

By the death of Nicol Rankin, at the early age of forty-seven, British Oto-Laryngology has lost a promising adherent, the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital a loyal and devoted servant, and his personal friends, among whom we include his patients, a beloved companion and counsellor.

After graduating in medicine at the University of Glasgow and spending some years as Resident in the Royal and Western Infirmaries of that city, Rankin came to London and proceeded to attach himself to the "Central," where he met with a hearty welcome from his fellow-graduates on the staff, a welcome which rapidly grew into a warm liking. Soon a Registrarship came his way, but his further advance was for the time being arrested by his joining the R.A.M.C. on the outbreak of the War. His military career, distinguished by devotion to his duties and to his regiment (the Buffs), culminated in an act of sustained gallantry that won him the Military Cross. After having received a shrapnel wound that severed the facial vessels, he contrived to get the bleeding more or less stopped, and then, instead of retiring invalided to the base, continued to attend to the wounded under heavy shell-fire until night-fall. Capt. Gordon Lindley, M.C., one of his fellow-officers, writes of the incident:—

"Those who were wounded on that day" (Aug. 18, 1916), "and were attended to by him, under a heavy barrage, with blood streaming down his face from a shrapnel wound, were delighted to see subsequently that he had been awarded the Military Cross."

On his return to the "Central" at the end of the War he was appointed to the surgical staff, and soon made his mark as a careful observer, a sound teacher, and a conscientious worker.

But it was his personality that counted. Gentle, kindly, quiet, with the national turn for sly humour well developed, he was never known to show irritation no matter how trying circumstances might be; and he had the inestimable power of unconsciously diffusing his own pacific atmosphere over less placid human elements about him.

As a surgeon he was dexterous and confident, almost surprisingly confident for so quiet a man; until it was realised how successful he could be.

The pain and anxieties of his most trying final illness he confronted with the same steady courage as on his day of glory in Flanders, and his memory will abide with us as that of a man of a high yet modest

Obituary

spirit, with which was coupled—to use the words of one of his oldest friends—a “gentle sincerity.”

Our sympathy goes out in full measure to his widow and little children, for we know, in some degree, something of what they have lost.

HUBERT ARROWSMITH, Brooklyn, U.S.A. (1865-1931).

Dr. Arrowsmith was probably best known as the founder of the American Bronchoscopic Society, and an earnest worker in the field of endoscopy during its early years. He was a Fellow of the American Laryngological Association from 1917. Our contemporary, the *Laryngoscope*, gives a bibliography of his publications. He was a genial and hospitable man; free from pose; fair-minded, open-spoken, and an untiring worker.

St C. T.

EMIL MAYER, New York (1854-1931).

By the death of Dr. Emil Mayer, America has lost a kindly, cultured and charming personality. He held a good position as a laryngologist at the large and well-equipped Mount Sinai Hospital, and his good standing is shown in that he was elected a Fellow of the American Laryngological Association—the blue ribbon of Laryngology in the U.S.A.—as long ago as 1896.

He was an indefatigable worker. For many years he was associated with Sir Felix Semon as the American editor of the *Zentralblatt für Laryngologie*. Latterly he did good service on various committees, particularly in collecting the large mass of material for the investigations concerning local anæsthesia.

He was a frequent visitor to this country in the days before the War. He and his wife were always welcome. He was artistic, a collector of etchings, a widely-read man, free from envy, and with a serene outlook.

St C. T.