

## Obituary

pulse was good. The face was livid: the pupils were dilated but not widely. Immediately she was placed on the table she had a convulsive attack, assuming a position of opisthotonus. As Dr Stockman entered the theatre he ordered artificial respiration and hypodermic injection of ether. The pulse gradually failed, and in half an hour it became imperceptible, and the heart sounds could no longer be heard. During this time the epileptiform attacks recurred. I then suggested that the artificial respiration should be continued with oxygen. To this Dr Stockman agreed. After another twenty minutes or so voluntary breathing was gradually re-established and the pulse could again be felt. The patient was carefully watched, oxygen being administered at intervals. She had one or two more epileptiform attacks. In about three hours consciousness returned. The next day she was drowsy, but on the following day she had practically recovered. She made an uneventful and complete recovery.

I have no doubt that the artificial respiration saved her life, and probably the oxygen contributed in large degree. The immediate enucleation of the tonsils released some of the cocaine which remained in the tissues. It was computed that the equivalent of 24 grains of cocaine was injected.

W. S. SYME.

GLASGOW.

## OBITUARY

GEORGE NIXON BIGGS, M.B., B.S. (Durham),  
Lieut.-Col. R.A.M.C. (T.); Lieut.-Col. R.A.F.

Surgeon to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich, and Surgeon-in-Charge of the Ear and Throat Department, Royal Waterloo Hospital for Women and Children.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Nixon Biggs, M.B., B.S., which occurred on 10th November at the early age of forty-one, after a protracted and distressing illness following an operation for appendicitis.

By his death British Laryngology and Otology have lost one of their most energetic sons, and the medical world has been deprived of a man of exceptional ability. Nixon Biggs was born on 28th March 1881, the only son of M. G. Biggs, M.D., for many years a Member of the Council of the British Medical Association and Chairman of the Central Ethical Committee. Nixon Biggs was educated at Westminster School. He began his medical studies at St Thomas's Hospital, later spending a year at Durham University, where he took the degree of M.B., B.S. Starting his career as a Laryngologist and Aural Surgeon, he held successively the appointments of House-Surgeon



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**and Senior Clinical Assistant to the Royal Ear Hospital; Senior Clinical Assistant and Registrar to the Metropolitan Nose and Throat Hospital; and Surgeon to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, Evelina Hospital for Children. On retirement from this appointment—to become Surgeon-in-Charge of the Ear and Throat Department, Royal Waterloo Hospital for Women and Children—he was honoured by being made Consulting Aural Surgeon.**

At the time of his death, he held, in addition to these appointments, that of Surgeon to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich. To his work at Greenwich Mr C. C. Choyce pays the following tribute:—"Here, as teacher in practical Rhinology, Laryngology, and Otology in the post-graduate school (London School of Clinical Medicine) he enjoyed great popularity amongst post-graduate students on account of his unfailing courtesy and unwearied patience in the demonstration of his specialty." Mr Biggs was Aural Surgeon to the Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Maida Vale.

The Great War gave him an opportunity of proving the value of his previous work in the R.A.M.C. (T.). From an early period of his life he had taken great interest in the R.A.M.C., and after serving in the Volunteers in his student days, he joined the Territorials at their inauguration and was soon promoted to Major. He was one of those who regarded Lord Roberts's warnings, and, foreseeing war with Germany, he worked very hard and enthusiastically to improve his Territorial unit and to perfect the details of the scheme for its mobilisation; for years, his only holiday was taken in camp during the annual training.

Mr Biggs was called up on 3rd August 1914, as Major and Registrar of No. 4 Territorial General Hospital (King's College Hospital), where he had the difficult task of training many civilian practitioners and others in military methods. It was largely owing to his energy and suavity that, from small beginnings, this hospital was equipped and extended so rapidly. After two and a half years of activity there, he was, in 1917, promoted to Lieut.-Colonel, and sent to France in command of No. 54 Territorial Hospital. Later, he was made Consulting Aural Surgeon to the Boulogne district. He was mentioned in Despatches, and made a Commander of the Military Order of Avis (Portugal). He was afterwards given the Territorial Decoration, and on his return from France, in 1918, was appointed Consulting Aurist and Laryngologist to the Royal Air Force. He was made President of the Central Appeal board of the Air Ministry.

Sir Herbert Waterhouse writes:—"To every officer of the R.A.M.C. (T.) who was, during the War, connected with the 4th London General Hospital, the death of Lt.-Col. G. Nixon Biggs must have come as a painful surprise, because we knew him during

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the time he was Registrar of that Hospital, as a man of splendid physique, who seemed to have many years of useful life before him. Prior to the War, my acquaintance with Colonel Biggs was a comparatively slight one. I knew him as a capable Aural Surgeon, and as an enthusiastic Territorial officer. When, at the outbreak of War, I received my mobilisation paper signed G. Nixon Biggs, Major Registrar, I went to the 4th London Hospital to gain some information about my duties. I never shall forget that interview, because, in the brief space of some fifteen minutes, after having answered in the negative the question, 'Do you know anything about the Regulations of the R.A.M.C. (T.)?' I was given in terse and clear language a full account of what was expected of me, and of what I was not to do! I do not think I ever learned so much in a quarter of an hour.

"During the long period that Major Biggs was at the 4th London Hospital I came to appreciate his wonderful business capacity, his tireless energy, his geniality and his consideration for others. I do not think I ever entered his office, and I did so twice or thrice a week, without finding him at work, and always ready to smooth away difficulties, to give helpful advice, and to do his utmost for the welfare of the Hospital.

"He knew everything that was going on in the institution, and devoted himself entirely to its best interests. When, later in the War, he was promoted and sent out to France he did valuable service and was mentioned in Despatches, but he will always be known and remembered as the admirable Registrar of the 4th London General Hospital where he endeared himself to all his colleagues by the charm of his manner, his great enthusiasm for his work, and his wonderful business capacity. The fact is that Biggs was a superman."

Mr Claude Frankau writes:—"George Nixon Biggs was appointed Surgeon to the Throat, Nose, and Ear Department at the Royal Waterloo Hospital in 1911, a few months after the Department had been started. He brought with him a reputation of being a skilled and careful operator, and greatly enhanced his reputation by his work at the Waterloo. By his enthusiasm and kindness he at once achieved great popularity amongst his patients, and rapidly developed a clinic which in proportion to the accommodation available was as large, if not larger, than any other in London. A man of great personal charm he was extremely popular amongst his colleagues, some of whom had further cause for appreciating him in his work as Registrar at the 4th London General Hospital, and as Commanding Officer of the 54th General Hospital during the War."

The *British Medical Journal* says:—"Although the activities of his laborious hospital appointments and busy private practice would have overwhelmed many men, Biggs' power of work was such that he was able to devote enthusiastic attention to many other sides of

## General Notes

life. No friend ever called upon him for help without immediately securing ungrudging devotion of time and energy. In his private capacity his unselfishness, kindness, and gentle courtesy never seemed to fail. A man of keen enthusiasms and of lovable character, George Nixon Biggs will be greatly missed." IRWIN MOORE.

### GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

*Section of Laryngology*—President, Charles A. Parker, F.R.C.S.Ed. Hon. Secretaries, T. B. Layton, D.S.O., M.S., and J. F. O'Malley, F.R.C.S. A special informal Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 5th January, at 4.45 P.M., its object being to discuss cases which present a difficulty in diagnosis.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 2nd February, at 4.45 P.M. Members desirous of showing patients or specimens are requested to send notice of the same to the Senior Hon. Secretary, Mr T. B. Layton, 10 Welbeck Street, London, W.1, at least twelve days before the Meeting.

*Section of Otology*—President, Hunter F. Tod, F.R.C.S. Hon. Secretaries, F. J. Cleminson, M.Ch., and Archer Ryland, F.R.C.S. Ed. The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 19th January, at 5 P.M.

Members desirous of showing patients or specimens are requested to send notice to the Senior Hon. Secretary, Mr F. J. Cleminson, 32 Harley Street, London, W.1, at least twelve days before the Meeting.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, PORTSMOUTH, 1923.

The Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in Portsmouth in July, under the Presidency of Mr Charles P. Childe, F.R.C.S., Honorary Senior Surgeon of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

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Professor Wilhelm Uchermann of Christiania, having attained the age of seventy years, has retired from the Chair of Otology and Laryngology in the University of that city. It was due to his untiring efforts that the first Professorship in the specialty in Scandinavia was founded in 1891, in the University of Christiania. He himself was nominated Professor in 1896, and later, in 1911, Otology and Laryngology were placed upon a similar footing to that of the other medical specialties and became subjects of examination in the curriculum. We desire to congratulate Professor Uchermann on what he has accomplished in establishing the academic position of the specialty, and we wish for him a long period of well-deserved rest and enjoyment.

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THE ÓNODI COLLECTION.

Readers of the *Journal* will recall the circumstances in which this collection was acquired by the Royal College of Surgeons of England,