

**Major Sir Frederick T. G. Hobday, C.M.G., F.R.C.V.S.**

THE death of Sir Frederick Hobday at Droitwich on June 24, 1939, has robbed the wide circle of his friends of a man of outstanding personality and unusual energy and ability.

Born at Burton-on-Trent, and educated at the Burton Grammar School, a love of animals which persisted throughout a long and active life turned Frederick Hobday's thoughts away from a business career to the study of veterinary medicine and surgery. He qualified at the Royal Veterinary College, London, in 1892, in the same year that Sir John M'Fadyean was appointed Dean. His early work was largely concerned with general practice. Later, he devoted much time and attention to a study of anæsthesia in animals and to veterinary surgery. He rapidly achieved a reputation as a surgeon, particularly perhaps as a specialist in abdominal surgery. Equine cryptorchidectomy, ovariectomy, and the operation for ablation of the laryngeal ventricles became associated with his name in Britain, but his services as a general consultant surgeon were widely sought.

During the Great War (1914–1918) he served in the R.A.V.C. in France and later on the Italian Front and in Albania. His able operative ability and his efficient war services were recognised by numerous awards. He was twice mentioned in despatches, was made a Companion of St Michael and St George, and received numerous foreign decorations and awards.

After the Armistice he spent a period in veterinary practice in London, and in 1927 was elected to succeed Sir John M'Fadyean as Principal and Dean of the London Veterinary College.

It was while holding this post that he carried out the work for which he will be best remembered. He found the college buildings in a state of great neglect, the finances of the institution were lamentably inadequate, and the general morale was low. Stimulated by the disgraceful neglect and imminent disaster to what should have been the foremost veterinary teaching centre in Britain—the blame for which must rest with the State—he initiated a campaign to collect funds for complete rebuilding. In this he was so successful that the subscription fund reached £135,000, which, together with a sum of £150,000 from the Government, enabled

the whole of the old structure to be replaced by a building designed and equipped in accordance with modern ideas. He had the satisfaction of seeing the buildings completed, equipped, occupied, and opened by Their Majesties the King and Queen in 1937, before he relinquished the Principalship of the College.

During his lifetime Hobday did much to establish the art and science of veterinary medicine and surgery as a recognised profession. He began his career at a time when horse transport was of vital importance, and lived to see the gradual transition to mechanical transport. As equine work became less he devoted more time to a study of diseases of the smaller animals, and during his latter years he was perhaps better known as a canine and feline specialist.

He contributed to many periodicals, was editor of the *Veterinary Journal*, and published a number of textbooks.

He will be remembered as a man of immense mental and physical energy, who combined a dexterous manipulative surgical skill with an acutely humanitarian outlook. He was possessed of a natural kindly and charming manner, and invariably was ready to help the student in his difficulties.

He was elected a Fellow in 1904.

WM. C. M.