

## Obituary

Specialist on the Ministry of Pensions' Board at Chelsea, but following a complete breakdown in health in 1922, owing to arterio-sclerosis, he was compelled to relinquish this work.

His literary contributions were many, and were chiefly confined to the surgery and pathology of the nose and throat in relation to obstruction of the nose; to the treatment of chronic disease of the maxillary antrum; and to the nasal relations of asthma. He devoted a large portion of his literary work to original observations on the etiological factors of malignant disease of the throat; on the sites of origin of these growths and their treatment. He published in the *British Medical Journal*, in 1909, an original paper on "Cancer of the Throat," and several other papers on the same subject appeared in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*. He originated some most ingenious theories as to the mechanics of respiration, publishing a paper in the *Lancet*, in 1911, in which he described the topographical anatomy, and the rigid resistance of the larynx and adjacent parts, which he considered bore upon the sites of origin, initiation, and maximum development of cancer of the larynx. His views, however, in connection with posture and respiration as a causative factor of cancer of the throat, were not endorsed by his specialist confrères.

He introduced into this country, simultaneously with Caldwell in New York, and Luc in Paris, the well-known Caldwell-Luc operation for empyema of the maxillary antrum.

Essentially a student, well read in general literature, a good musician, and very hospitable, he made many friends, while his skill as a nasal operator, and in the older indirect method of removing laryngeal growths, acquired for him a large consulting practice in London.

He was prominent, at one time, as a Freemason, being made, in 1897, a Provincial Grand Deacon of Surrey.

He was Honorary Laryngologist to the Royal Society of Musicians, and Consulting Surgeon to the Throat, Nose, and Ear School for the Blind at Leatherhead.

Dr Scanes Spicer married Mary Wilhelmina, daughter of Mr E. H. Huelin, who still survives him. He leaves a son (who was head boy at Eton in 1917, afterwards obtaining a First Class in the Classical Tripos at Cambridge) and two married daughters.

IRWIN MOORE.

### THOMAS MARK HOVELL, F.R.C.S. (Edin.),

Consulting Aural Surgeon to the London Hospital; Consulting Surgeon, Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square.

By the death, on 30th June, of Mr Mark Hovell, of 105 Harley Street, and Lemsford, Hatfield, from cerebral hæmorrhage, at the age of 72, the medical profession has lost one of its oldest laryngologists

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and otologists, and one of the last remaining links with Morell Mackenzie, and the early pioneer days of laryngology in this country.

Mark Hovell came of an ancient Suffolk family, who held lands of the Monastery of Bury St Edmunds, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. He was the son of the late Dennis de Berdt Hovell, F.R.C.S., a general practitioner in Clapton, E., who, in 1871, was President of the Hunterian Society, and died in 1888.

Mark Hovell received his medical education at the London Hospital, taking the diploma of M.R.C.S. (Eng.) in 1875, and the F.R.C.S. (Edin.) in 1880.

He first became associated with Morell Mackenzie in 1880, when, as Resident Medical Officer and Registrar to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square, he assisted Mackenzie in the preparation of his great work on *Diseases of the Throat and Nose*, the laryngologists' "Encyclopædia Laryngologica," published in 1880 and 1884, and so well described by Sir St Clair Thomson, as the "laryngologists' Bible." Later, Hovell was appointed Surgeon to the hospital in Golden Square.

Mark Hovell's earlier life in the late "eighties" was full of interest on account of his close association with the Emperor Frederick of Germany. After the first operation performed by Morell Mackenzie, in June 1887, upon the Crown Prince of Germany, Norris Wolfenden, at that time acting as resident physician, was obliged to resign his charge of the case, on account of domestic circumstances, and Mark Hovell was invited by Morell Mackenzie to succeed him. Hovell accepted the position, and accompanied his distinguished patient to Braemar, in August 1887, a few weeks after the first Jubilee procession in which the Crown Prince was so noticeable a figure. From that time onwards, with the exception of a few days on the occasion of his father's death, Hovell was in constant personal attendance, until the death, in June 1888, of his patient, who had become Emperor.

Letters received by his family from the Crown Prince, in 1887, expressed "the extreme warmth of gratitude which the Prince owed" to Hovell for his "unwearied devotion and skill," and, in 1888, the Empress of Germany referred to Hovell's "untiring efforts to alleviate the Emperor's sufferings, and the valuable services he had rendered," and she described him as "the faithful, reliable, self-sacrificing, and sympathetic man." By his skill, gentleness and tact, he so endeared himself, that one of the Emperor's first acts on his accession, when bestowing honours on Morell Mackenzie, was to confer upon Hovell, with his own hand, the Second Class of the Order of the Crown—a high distinction for one not of German birth.

After the death of the Emperor, Hovell returned to London, and was appointed Lecturer on Diseases of the Throat at the London



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Hospital, and became Consulting Surgeon to the Golden Square Throat Hospital.

In 1901, he was President of the Section of Laryngology and Otology at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, and, in 1917, was elected President of the Section of Laryngology, Royal Society of Medicine.

He was the author of a well-known text-book on *Diseases of the Ear and Naso-pharynx* which reached a second edition, and he published a number of articles on oto-laryngological subjects in the *British Medical Journal* and other medical papers.

In 1924, Mark Hovell wrote an important and practical work on *Rats and the Extermination of these Pests*, in relation to public health and the conveyance of disease. It was based on many years' experience and study of the rat menace, gained at his country home near Hatfield. The book received great praise from scientific and other journals dealing with public health, both at home and abroad, and it is recognised as the most practical and comprehensive published work on the subject of rat destruction.

The *British Medical Journal*, in an obituary notice, remarks that "although Mr Hovell's characteristically conservative views on the tonsils gave rise to a good deal of discussion more than once, he was admired by his colleagues as a surgeon of wide experience, thoroughness, sound judgment and common sense."

Throughout his life he was essentially a worker and absorbed in his practice, and the same qualities which he exhibited in his earlier days were always maintained in his hospital and private work. He was patient, overflowing with kindness and generosity, a devoted husband and father, and an ever-welcome friend.

On the occasion of the laryngologists' pilgrimage to Wargrave, in 1921, for the purpose of placing a laurel wreath on the grave of Morell Mackenzie, many will remember Hovell's eloquent tribute to the memory of his great chief and teacher whom he had so loyally served. One of his old medical friends has remarked that the motto of his former Hospital (the London), "*Homo Sum: Humani Nihil A Me Alienum Puto*," fittingly expresses Hovell's character.

He married, in 1905, the Hon. Margaret Cecilia Bateman-Hanbury, daughter of the second Lord Bateman, who, with one son, survives him.

A Memorial Service was held at St Mark's, North Audley Street, on the 4th July. The funeral took place at Lemsford, Hatfield, Herts, and the Section of Laryngology, Royal Society of Medicine, was represented by Dr Irwin Moore, who placed a wreath on the grave, on behalf of the President, Council, and Members of the Section.

IRWIN MOORE.