

immediately after the fracture; when they come to us, all that can be made out is, that they have complete nerve deafness. It would be interesting to know what is the effect sooner after the accident. For a long time I have tried to get the surgeons to let me know when the patients come in, but I hardly ever have the opportunity of seeing them in a recent stage. Having seen these specimens, I shall make a further effort to see if tests cannot be carried out immediately after the accident, instead of, as at present, weeks or months afterwards, as a collection of specimens with a complete examination of the hearing would be very valuable.

(To be continued.)

OBITUARY.

MAJOR WILLIAM GUTHRIE PORTER, D.S.O., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,
F.R.C.S.Ed.

It was a cause of great grief to his numerous friends when the news reached them that Major Porter (R.F.A., T.) had been killed in action on June 9 of this year, for he was a man whom all who knew him well loved because of his modesty, tact, and kindness of heart, while they admired his self-reliance and strength of character.

It is given to few to attain eminence in two professions before reaching middle age.

Major Porter was known to readers of this JOURNAL as an ardent and conscientious worker in our speciality. He was the author of an excellent work on "Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear," which was published in 1912, and which showed how thoroughly conversant he was with modern oto-laryngology. In the same year he and Dr. Logan Turner brought out their work on "Skiagraphy of the Accessory Nasal Sinuses." In the revised edition of Allbutt's "System of Medicine" the article on "General Therapeutics of Diseases of the Ear" was from his pen. He also contributed valuable papers on "The Operative Treatment of Laryngeal Tumours," "Submucous Resection of the Nasal Septum," "A Fold sometimes found in front of the Posterior Nasal Opening," and "Nystagmus of the Right Vocal Cord and Soft Palate in a case of Cerebral Disease." It is thus evident that he was not only a hard worker but that he had already added contributions of great value to our literature. He was a most accurate observer and extremely careful about the verification of all his facts. In addition to this his manual dexterity was remarkable. As an operator he undoubtedly excelled, and this was partly due to the fact that he was ambidextrous—a most valuable gift for an oto-laryngologist to possess. Notwithstanding this he was rather inclined to be conservative in that he never resorted to operation until he had absolutely convinced himself that interference was essential in the best interests of the patient.

There can be little doubt that had Porter lived a few years longer in times of peace he would have taken a foremost place among the oto-laryngologists of the world. He was extremely popular both with patients, colleagues, and general practitioners on account of his charming personality, kindness, and his transparent honesty of thought and action.

Porter was not only a more than excellent specialist, but he was also

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Adlard & Son & West Newman, Ltd.

a very competent all-round medical man. He had held positions as House Surgeon, House Physician, and Surgical Tutor before he made up his mind to specialise. In addition he had studied on the continent with a view to general practice ere he finally determined to devote himself to oto-laryngology, so that he was always able to take a wide view as to cases which came before him. He was also a good ophthalmoscopist—a most useful accomplishment for the otologist who has to deal with endo-cranial disease.

At the time of his death he was Surgeon to the Eye, Ear, and Throat Infirmary (Edinburgh), to the Ear and Throat Department of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Edinburgh), and Aurist to the Edinburgh Royal Institute for Education of the Deaf and Dumb.

While Porter always put work before pleasure, he was extremely fond of sport. In early manhood he was prominent in football circles and played for the Edinburgh Academicals. He also saw active service in the Boer War. In later years most of the time he could give to holidays was spent with his battery of Territorial Artillery. So it came about that in 1914 he had to give up practice and devote his attention to purely military work. No doubt the mental ability which made him a successful medical man enabled him to become, after a short period of training, a very competent artillery officer. Indeed it must have been so, for at the time of his death he had not only risen to the rank of Major, but had received that coveted distinction, the D.S.O., as well as mention in dispatches.

Porter was as popular in the Army as in civil life. The writer has had the privilege of seeing letters from officers and men which fully bear out this statement, and it is just what those who knew him best would have expected: all these letters breathe a spirit of affection which it is the fortune of few men to inspire. They specially refer to his kindness of heart and courage. The former, all of us who were his friends knew; the latter, most of us suspected even before the war. Since Porter went to France we had heard from men home on leave of his doings and always were told of his courage. Kindness and courage, modesty and self-reliance, tact and strength of character, unselfishness and yet discernment—these were the characteristics that endeared him to soldier and civilian.

While therefore we all grieved deeply when we heard that Porter had died in the service of his country on June 8, we realised that what we feared had come to pass. He had been wounded by a shell a few weeks before and had enjoyed a short leave in this country. Not many days after his return to France he fell a victim to the bullet of a sniper while making observations for the posting of his battery. Thus there has passed from among us a brilliant, many-sided personality and a gallant, upright gentleman.

“Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.”

P. McB.

“Dr. McBride and Dr. Logan Turner¹ have paid their tributes as intimate friends and colleagues—but still as seniors—to the late Major Porter. I cannot claim to have known Porter nearly so well as Drs. McBride and Turner, but yet I feel that—as a rival—I would like to state my high opinion of his disposition, character, and ability. Porter was always a fighting man but he fought ‘fair.’

“We acted together as clinical assistants to Dr. Logan Turner in 1905–6, and it was a pleasure to see the way in which Porter went about

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his work. He always did this splendidly, but, in addition, he managed to infuse into the routine work of dressing cases, removing tonsils and adenoids, and seeing out-patients a humour and jolliness which were the expression of his outlook on life. Everyone was brighter when he came and so got through the daily task with less conscious effort and probably did it better.

"When one thinks of his personality, his energy, his ability, and his exuberant good health, it brings home the wastefulness of war which leaves those who are so much less fit to continue the struggle of everyday life. Still such a war as is now being waged demands the best a nation can produce, and Major Porter was undoubtedly one of these."

J. S. F.

VICTOR DELSAUX (Brussels),

Born 1861. Died 1917.

AMONGST the wholesale horrors of the present war, although

"Each new morn,
New widows howl; new orphans cry; new sorrows
Strike heaven on the face,"

yet single instances of misery sometimes bring home to us even more acutely the "weight of this sad time." The death of Jules Broeckaert amongst us in London, an exile from his native land, and now the death of Victor Delsaux, a prisoner in his own beloved country, fill us, as Prof. Tapia says in the *Revista Española de Laringología*, with "una impresión de imborrable tristeza." They were not only leading men in Ghent and Bruxelles, but were both such distinguished laryngologists and had contributed such valuable work in advancing our speciality, that their names were well known to every laryngologist in the world.

Victor Delsaux was born in 1861 and spent his childhood in his native town of Fleurus. He went to school at Dinant, little dreaming of the days when this picturesque city on the Meuse would be ruined by the brutalities of war. Entering the University of Bruxelles in 1879 he devoted his first two years to the study of natural sciences. After qualifying, he passed a year in the best known clinics in Paris, and settled down to a family practice amongst the poor of Bruxelles. Whilst thus engaged he obtained the post of assistant with Profs. Capart and Delstanche père, perfecting himself in oto-rhino-laryngology and gradually withdrawing himself from general practice.

About this time he showed his cosmopolitan tastes for travel and culture, visiting London, Petrograd, Moscow, Zurich, Berne, Geneva, the chief Italian cities, and the Scandinavian and neighbouring German countries. He went still further, visiting the Island of Madeira, where he did not forget to inspect and study its leper hospitals, and touring in Morocco where he did not omit to see its hospitals and gaols. During these travels, as later on, he formed a large circle of acquaintances with colleagues, clinics and learned societies, and from each journey he brought back observations which widened his views and deepened his sympathies, as well as books which he was continually adding to his cherished library. For he was a great reader, and owing to his linguistic talents he was able to devote himself to the medical literature of half a dozen languages.

Working so long as "médecin-adjoint" at the hospital and