

THE  
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**OBITUARY NOTICES.**

SIR PHILIP CRAMPTON SMYLY, M.D.DUB.

THE sudden death of Sir Philip Smyly, which took place recently at his residence, Merrion Square, Dublin, has caused deep and widespread regret.

The Journal of last month was in the press when the unexpected announcement reached us, and it was then only possible briefly to record the sad occurrence. Since then the various medical periodicals and the press generally have referred in feeling terms to the great loss which the country has sustained by Sir Philip's death, and have made the public familiar with many interesting details regarding his useful and instructive life as well as with the circumstances surrounding his unlooked-for end.

For some time previously the health of the distinguished surgeon had been unsatisfactory, causing grave anxiety to his family and friends, but of late he seemed to be recovering much of his accustomed health and spirits. Quite unexpectedly the rupture of a cerebral blood vessel brought to a close a life full of usefulness to his fellow men, and one which will always afford a bright example to those who strive to follow in his footsteps.

Sir Philip was born in 1838; graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, with a moderatorship and silver medal in experimental science in 1859; and at various times filled the posts of Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, Consulting Surgeon to the Dublin Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear, and other similar institu-

tions. He became from time to time President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, President of the British Laryngological Association, Vice-President of the Laryngological Section at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in London, President of the Irish Schools and Graduates Association, and was for several years a member of the General Medical Council.

For forty years he was attached to the Vice-Regal Staff in Dublin. In 1902 he received the honour of knighthood, and in the following year was appointed Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland. Subsequently, on the accession of King Edward, he was appointed Hon. Surgeon to His Majesty.

Sir Philip Smyly possessed intellectual qualities of a high order, and for many years occupied a prominent position in the profession which he did so much to advance and to elevate, as well as in the social world of Dublin.

His gifts were many and varied, and he was keenly devoted to his professional work in all its branches. He was a skilful and successful operator in several departments of general surgery. In particular the success of his abdominal sections some twenty-five years ago did much to enhance his reputation as an operating surgeon. Of late years he devoted himself largely to the study of throat affections, and it is probably as a throat specialist that his name is most widely known.

He was one of the founders of the British Laryngological Association, which owed its inception to a movement inaugurated in Dublin during the annual meeting of the British Medical Association in that city in the year 1887. In the formation of this, the first "special" society established in the United Kingdom for the study of diseases of the throat and kindred affections, Sir Philip took a prominent part and succeeded Sir Morell Mackenzie as President of the Association for 1889-90. Smyly's life was essentially a "full" one, and at one time or another he filled most of the positions of honour to which it was possible for his professional brethren to elect him. His practice was large and lucrative. He never had time to speak or write much on scientific subjects, and he never attempted to establish a reputation as a great teacher of scientific work. Nevertheless he never failed to place the highest ideals before his pupils, and his own work afforded an example of all that a successful student should attempt to realise.

Sir Philip's personal character and high standard of professional honour, quite as much, perhaps, as his intellectual attainments, contributed largely towards the establishment and recognition of

diseases of the throat as a special branch of scientific study and practice at a time when for many reasons so-called "specialism" was regarded with a certain amount of disfavour—not to say suspicion—by a considerable number of members of the medical profession.

His name will live always in the annals of Laryngology, not only as the skilful diagnostician and the successful operator, but as the courteous and accomplished gentleman whose kindness of heart many have experienced and whose personal charm none who have known him will ever forget.

#### DR. CAMILLE MIOT, OF PARIS.

By the death of Dr. Camille Miot the world of laryngology in Paris has lost a distinguished representative. He was born at Moulins-Engilbert on July 17, 1838, and he died on April 1 of the present year. Many who have visited Paris at the times of the Medical Congresses will have enjoyed the elegant hospitality dispensed by himself and Madame Miot. He was a man of strong opinions, and appears to have made his way in the medical world entirely by his own exertions. He added very considerably to the literature of otology, of which there was very little in existence when he entered upon its study. He is most identified with the operation of mobilisation of the stapes, which he practised and advocated with the strongest convictions as to its value. With the collaboration of his pupil, Dr. Baratoux, he published a portion of what was intended to be a complete treatise on diseases of the ear, but stopped short before the publication of the final volume. His portrait, presented with this issue of the *JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY*, will recall his features to those who have had the good fortune to meet him, and who will hear of his death with the greatest regret.

The appended list of his works will show the wide extent of his contributions during the last thirty-six years :

"Mémoire sur le Tympan Artificiel à la Société Médical du Panthéon," Mai 30, 1868.

"De l'Inflammation aiguë de la Caisse du Tympan," 1 Août, 1868.

"Du Speculum Pneumatique considéré au point de vue du diagnostic, et du Traitement des Maladies de l'Oreille," 2 Janvier, 1869.

"Des Corps Étrangers dans l'Oreille," *Mouvement Médical*, 1868.

"Des Retrecissements du Conduit Auditif Externe," *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, 1871.

"Traité Pratique des Maladies de l'Oreille ou Lecons Cliniques," Paris, 1871.

"De la Myringodectomie," *Progrès Médical*, 1878.