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BERNARD CRIDLAND

It is with great regret that we record the death of Bernard Cridland, which occurred at his home in Wolverhampton on June 29. Those of us who were present at the opening of the Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom in April, and heard his kindly reference to the President's illness as he took the Chair in his capacity of Vice-President, can have had no premonition that the speaker himself was so shortly to be overtaken by death. This is a very heavy blow to British Ophthalmology, and particularly so to the Oxford Congress and the Midland Ophthalmological Society. He was one of the best known and most popular of the provincial members of the fraternity, and his place will be hard to fill indeed.

Born in Bristol in 1873, Arthur Bernard Cridland was educated at Clifton, University College, London, and St. Mary's Hospital. He qualified at the Conjoint Board in 1898 and took the F.R.C.S. Edin. in 1903. After qualification he returned to Bristol as House Surgeon to the Eye Infirmary and, on completion of this service, he became anaesthetist with charge of the ophthalmic wards in the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Here he came under the influence of Richardson Cross, for whom he entertained a marked veneration, and of whose obituary notice in the Brit. Med. Jl. he was the author. In the South African war he served as civil surgeon, and, settling in Wolverhampton, he rapidly made his mark as an ophthalmic surgeon. He was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Hospital, to the Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary and to the Staffordshire General Infirmary.

It was at the Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary that Cridland's chief work was done. During his active connection with the Institution the number of patients attending increased enormously. He was also responsible for the plans to enlarge the buildings and had the satisfaction of seeing the new operating theatre opened some years ago by his old teacher, Richardson Cross.

In his work in a large manufacturing centre he became recognized as an authority on injuries to the eye, of which he acquired a vast experience.

Proceeding D.O. Oxon. in 1910, he succeeded Sydney Stephenson as Hon. Secretary of the Oxford Congress. This post he held for 14 years and it is not too much to say that the unvarying success of this annual meeting was, in large part, due to Cridland's methodical work and personal charm of manner. He was Master
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of the Congress from 1929 to 1931, and delivered the Doyne Memorial Lecture last year. In this lecture he gave his experience of the after results of intra-ocular foreign bodies, a subject on which he could speak with authority. Cridland won the Middlemore Prize in 1918, his subject being "Eczematous Kerato-Conjunctivitis;" and his lecture was published in our columns.

Besides all this he was an active member and Past President of the Midland Ophthalmological Society and a Vice-President of the Council of British Ophthalmologists. During the past few years his position became enhanced by election as the representative of Great Britain on the International Council of the Association for the Prevention of Blindness. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Association and contributed to our pages unsigned précis of the deliberations. The last official work he did was to attend a meeting of this Council in Paris in May, his account of which will appear in our next number.

He was also a very hard working member of the Prevention of Blindness Committee instituted under the aegis of the Ministry of Health by the Union of Counties Association for the Blind.

Cridland was also a very keen member of the Ophthalmological Society. He joined in 1904 and was on the Council from 1918 to 1921, and sporadically since that date as ex officio a member in connection with the affiliated societies. Last year he was elected Vice-President.

Most of his contributions to the literature are recorded in the Transactions. Since 1916 hardly a year has passed without some contribution from his pen, so that 60 items stand to his credit in the Indices.

He was a member of the General Committee of the British Journal of Ophthalmology from the start in 1917, and contributed some papers to our earlier volumes, one of these was notable in recording cases of cataract in Puddlers. Cridland did much to popularize the use of the tonometer in clinical work.

Whatever he did Cridland put his whole heart into the doing. It was the same in his work as in his hours of recreation, as a keen fisherman, golfer and motorist. His friends were many, and they will like to remember his geniality, his capacity for making friends and the trouble he would always take to serve a friend in any way. Certainly the world in general and the ophthalmic circle in particular are so much the poorer for his having left it. His memory will always be cherished, not only in Wolverhampton, but by all with whom he came in contact, as that of a staunch friend who always played the game.

Much sympathy will be felt for his widow and children in their bereavement.