with the juniors who came to work in the clinic to make the hard places of ophthalmology seem easy. He was always willing to impart his knowledge to others.

Basil Lang was married only eleven months ago and all who knew him will offer his widow, his father, and sister their deep sympathy in the irreparable loss they have sustained.

PROFESSOR HJALMAR AUGUST SCHIØTZ, M.D.

ON November 30, 1927, Professor HJALMAR AUGUST SCHIØTZ was attacked by cerebral haemorrhage, while engaged in the task of adjusting a series of new tonometers. He died on December 8, without having regained consciousness.

Hjalmar Schiøtz was born on February 9, 1850, in Stavanger, Norway. As late as Thursday, November 24, at the Oslo Ophthalmological Association, he delivered, in his lucid and comprehensive style, a demonstration-lecture on the laws governing the movements of the skiascopic shadows.

Hjalmar Schiøtz had an extensive general medical education, previous to devoting himself to the science of ophthalmology. After qualifying in 1877, he went through assistant duty at different hospital-divisions and with a private practitioner in Brevik. Subsequently he worked abroad, first at Vienna, where he stayed for half a year with Arlt; and secondly, at Paris, where he stayed for one and a half years and became *Directeur adjoint* at the ophthalmological laboratory of the Sorbonne for a period of about one year, under the supervision of Emile Javal. This co-operation, termed by Javal himself as *les plus meilleurs jours dans ma vie*, proved to be of great importance for Schiøtz. Together they designed the well-known apparatus for ascertaining the corneal astigmatism. For a considerable period, however, it carried Javal's name only. Due, none the less, to his reference to the co-operation—the mathematical part of it being mainly the work of Schiøtz—made at the Tenth International Ophthalmological Congress in Lucerne, 1904, where an improvement of the instrument was demonstrated, the apparatus was finally to become generally known under the joint names of both designers. In 1881, Schiøtz returned to Christiania, now Oslo. During the next three years he was Clinical Chief at Surgical Section B. of the Government Hospital and later he was the head of the Surgical Policlinique. At that time Division B. had surgical and ophthalmological service in common. His senior was Professor Johan

Hjort, known as the initiator of the open wound method after cataract operations. This joint division, as such, had an important bearing on Schiøtz's further development. His pre-eminent dexterity in regular ophthalmic operations and especially in plastic eyelid operations was due perhaps mainly to this joint work.

In 1883, he took his M.D. with a thesis: "On some optical corneal characteristics." During the illness of Professor Hjort in 1898-9 Schiøtz took charge of his division, which by this time covered only ophthalmic affections. On December 12, he was made the head surgeon of the Government Eye Hospital, and on June 15, he was appointed Professor of Ophthalmology, retaining the chair until September, 1921, when he retired under the age clause.

Hjalmar Schiøtz had a great versatility of mind, his powers being comprehensive. In the first place he was the born clinician with an open mind for the essential features of any disease. He had his special forte in sketching a particular syndrome in a few words, thus conveying it to the minds of his assistants and pupils. However, he was scarcely such a good theoretical lecturer for the young students. Everything clinically that contributed to rapid diagnosis of a case caught his particular interest. This, combined with a pronounced technical turn and a superior mathematical gift, made him a pathfinder, occupying his spare time with the construction of instruments, designed to facilitate the diagnosis and to further the therapy. His work with Javal has been mentioned; he was also the inventor of several other ophthalmic instruments, notably a self-registering perimeter.

The all-important instrument which has been the means of erecting him a *monumentum aere perennius*, is the tonometer, first demonstrated to the Norwegian Medical Society on May 12, 1905. In spite of numerous attempts to improve it, made from different parts of the world, the original Schiøtz has so far been able to maintain its reputation of being the most dependable, handy, and efficient instrument known for its special purpose. It has, therefore, become a most essential aid to ophthalmic surgeons the world over in their fight against glaucoma.

Although Professor Schiøtz, as previously mentioned, was a prominent surgeon, he, however, never went cheerfully to a serious operation, and few, not even those who had worked with him for years, were aware of the depression which haunted him before entering the operating room. But just this sensitiveness, together with his fine and noble character, as also the example which his predecessor, Professor Hjort, had given in his treatment of him as well as of the other assistants and of the patients, contributed to make him the exceptionally painstaking, considerate, and warm-hearted physician, colleague and friend,

beloved by all who came in touch with him and willing, at any time, to give advice and help. Even after he had retired from his private practice in 1921, his vast experience was repeatedly called upon by his colleagues. Characteristic of him was his reply to a young ophthalmic surgeon. A patient had got a panophthalmitis after an otherwise uncomplicated cataract extraction in his single eye. The doctor sent in his distress for his old chief, who met him with the words: "Call for me at any time. I know what Professor Hjort did for me when I was young!" University students, as a rule, are pitiless critics, who quickly detect any weakness on the part of their teachers. Characteristically the undergraduates of Professor Schiøtz nicknamed him "Alfader" (All-father) the very name the old Norsemen attached to their foremost mythological god "Odin" (Woden) meaning not to designate him as an imperious Titan, but as the all-embracing father. "Alfader" was meant to stand for the lenient gentleness radiating from him to his fellow beings.

Professor Schiøtz was a member of numerous domestic and foreign medical societies. He has published several treatises and scientific works in Norwegian, including text-books for undergraduates in English, French, and German. He also was in possession of a series of decorations. Thus, about a year ago, he was appointed Commander of the First Class of the Order of St. Olav for his introduction of the tonometer in the treatment of glaucoma. He had been Knight of this Order for a number of years.

HARALD G. A. GJESSING.

BROWNLOW RIDDELL

BROWNLOW RIDDELL, O.B.E., M.D., died suddenly in Glasgow on January 19, 1928. He had a long connection with the Glasgow Eye Infirmary and had been full surgeon since 1919. Riddell was associated with the late James Hinshelwood, in his hospital work and in his investigations of nervous disorder, and he had himself made a special study of eye symptoms in the early diagnosis of disseminated sclerosis (*Trans. Ophthal. Soc.*, 1924). During the war Riddell acted as Medical Superintendent of Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, and the success of this hospital was largely due to his efficient organization. For his war-time services he was awarded the O.B.E.