THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL AND ITS STAFF IN THE PAST

BY

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As the five ophthalmic hospitals in London have been rebuilt within recent years I have thought that it might be of interest to record something of the members of the Staff of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital during the early period of its existence and of the various hospital buildings in which they worked.

The first hospital in London specially devoted to diseases of the eye was the "London Infirmary for curing Diseases of the Eye" opened in 1805 at 40 Charterhouse Street, the forerunner of the present Moorfields Eye Hospital. An eye hospital was opened "under Royal Patronage in Westminster" in 1804-5 but it seems to have collapsed. In 1816, Guthrie, who had served through the Peninsular War as an Army Surgeon, succeeded in influencing the Duke of Wellington to help in the founding of an eye hospital. Both had been much shocked at the amount of eye disease among the troops in the Peninsula. A notice of the proposed infirmary was published in the Morning Chronicle for Saturday, December 7, 1816.

A framed copy of the newspaper exists in the Secretary’s office at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. In it occurs the following:

"THATCHED HOUSE TAVERN, 5th December, 1816.
The Right Honourable Lord Lynedoch in the Chair.

At a numerous meeting of Noblemen and Gentlemen, it was proposed to establish an Infirmary for the Cure of Diseases of the Eye in the western part of the Metropolis, for the relief of the poor and as a school of instruction, certain resolutions were adopted to promote this most important object and a Committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the Institution.

Patron—His Royal Highness the Duke of York, K.G.
President—His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K.G.

That a Committee be formed for the purpose of regulating the affairs of the Institution, who will report their proceedings to the next meeting of Governors.

President—Lord Lynedoch. Members—Sir Thomas Bell, S. Reed, Esquire.

Treasurers—Dr. C. F. Forbes, G. J. Guthrie, Esquire.
That the Medical Officers of the Establishment consist of one Physician, Dr. C. F. Forbes, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent and to the Surrey Dispensary, Deputy Inspector of Military Hospitals, etc., etc., and of one Surgeon viz.—Mr. Guthrie, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Deputy Inspector of Military Hospitals, Lecturer on Surgery in London, etc., etc.

That to give immediate effect to this Institution, the poor will be relieved, until a proper place can be provided, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, between the hours of half past nine and eleven, at Mr. Guthrie's house, No. 2 Berkeley Street, Berkeley Square."

The original title of the hospital was "The Royal Westminster Infirmary for the Cure of Diseases of the Eye." The hospital was first in Mary-le-Bone Street, Piccadilly. This street is now the eastern part of Glasshouse Street. Later it was moved to Warwick Street, Golden Square. In 1832, it was moved to King William Street, West Strand. Its home was the western corner of the island site on which Charing Cross Hospital now stands. In those days it was separated by Toole's Theatre from Charing Cross Hospital. It was reconstructed and extended in 1900 and 1906 and again in 1912. In 1910, Charing Cross Hospital abolished its Ophthalmic Department, the work being undertaken by the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. Lastly, owing to the continued extension of its work and the cramped conditions under which it was done, it was decided to make a move to a new site, as the existing one gave no scope for expansion.

In 1926, a suitable piece of land was purchased in Broad Street, Holborn. Broad Street was the original main thoroughfare to the west until New Oxford Street was constructed in 1836 cutting off the bend in the road. A fine eight-storey building in red brick was erected on the site at a cost of £130,000 and opened for use in 1928. It is a building with a magnificent outlook over London. From the roof Hampstead, Blackheath, and the Crystal Palace are easily seen. One suspects that given favourable meteorological conditions even Windsor Castle might sail into view. It is a living tribute to the skill of the architects in designing such light and airy wards on a site in the midst of a dense population. It contains features which are still uncommon in most hospitals, namely an extensive suite of private rooms for paying patients. These are really private rooms and are not cubicles or portions of a ward separated by canvas partitions. There is also a Light Department where cases are subjected to ultra-violet
light, diathermy or ionization. A Squint Department is also in operation where ocular exercises are undertaken for cases of squint both before and after operation. The present building contains 86 beds and is capable of being extended to 100 beds.

Eye hospitals in London as well as in the Provinces are tending to increase the number of private rooms, as experience shows that the average nursing home is unable to deal with eye cases as satisfactorily as the eye hospitals owing to the lack of trained ophthalmic nurses and the absence of experienced resident medical officers. Municipalization of hospitals will probably affect the eye hospitals last as ophthalmic work is in much more of a watertight compartment than other specialities. Let us hope that this stronghold of the voluntary principle will hold out for many generations.

The founder of the hospital, George James Guthrie, was born on May 8, 1785, in London. His grandfather, a Scotsman, served with the army at the Battle of the Boyne. Qualifying as a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1801, he became Fellow of the College in 1843, being one of the original 300 Fellows. An M.D. of Aberdeen, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1827. He died in 1866, and was buried at Kensal Green. Guthrie was apprenticed to Mr. Phillips, a surgeon in Pall Mall, at the age of 13 and attended the Windmill Street School of Anatomy. He obtained his Membership at the age of 16 and was at once posted to the 29th Regiment and proceeded to North America, remaining there until 1807. He then returned to England and was immediately ordered to the Peninsula. He served there until 1814. He acted as Principal Medical Officer at the Battle of Albuera and one evening had 3,000 wounded on his hands. He describes himself in his books as Deputy Inspector-General of Army Hospitals during the war in Portugal, Spain, France and the Netherlands.

Guthrie remained on the Staff of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital until 1838, being then succeeded by his son, Charles W. Gardiner Guthrie, who was elected Assistant-Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital in 1823, becoming full Surgeon in 1827 and resigning in 1843. He was a Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons from 1824 to 1856, and a Member of the Court of Examiners from 1828 to 1856; Chairman of the Midwifery Board in 1853; Hunterian Orator in 1830; Vice-President of the College five times, President, 1833, 1841, and 1854. He was Hunterian Professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery in 1828 and 1832. He married twice and had two sons and one daughter, none of whom had any children.

Colonel O'Kinealy, C.B.E., of the Indian Medical Service, and an old House Surgeon at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic
Hospital in 1887, tells me that when he was there Guthrie's "Hell-Fire Eye Lotion" was still being spoken of with respect. James Rouse, who was still on the staff then, having succeeded the younger Guthrie in 1856, was no doubt responsible for this.

Guthrie wrote a monograph in 1834 "On the CERTAINTY and the SAFETY which the Operation for the EXTRACTION of a CATARACT from the HUMAN EYE may be performed and on the means by which it is to be accomplished." A lengthy title . . . . This was published by order of the Committee and sold for the benefit of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. 2s. 6d. stitched. This philanthropic publication of medical papers by Hospital Committees might well be re-introduced in these modern times.

Guthrie begins thus:

"An ancient professor of the ars oculista is stated to have said that a man must spoil a hatful of eyes before he could learn to extract a cataract well, that is, he must blind as many people." Guthrie is very emphatic that the eye is not a very sensitive organ. He says that we have been misled owing to our feeling pain when a foreign body enters the eye and causes exquisite discomfort. He says that this is due to the lids rubbing on the cornea. Draw the lids apart and the sensation of pain ceases.

He points out that it would be impossible to perform operations on the eye if it were very sensitive to pain. A further quotation is as follows:—"The woman they say, who hesitates is lost; of this I have no knowledge, but that the surgeon who hesitates in the first stage of the operation (cataract) is very likely to lose his patient's eye, I am certain."

He mentions how Chevalier von Graefe, of Berlin, came to England and was invited to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital and asked to do a cataract operation with his new knife. Guthrie remarks after Graefe had done the operation "I was satisfied that he knew as much as I did about it, and I was infinitely more gratified to perceive that he did not know more." Guthrie also wrote a book of lectures on "Operative Surgery" published in 1819. In this book squint is not even mentioned.

**Sir Charles Fergusson Forbes.**—Born March 22, 1779. He was a twelve months' pupil of Thomas Keate at St. George's Hospital in 1801. He was a Hospital Mate in 1798. Assistant-Surgeon, 2nd Battalion 1st Foot, 1799, Surgeon, 1st Foot, 1804, Staff Surgeon, 1808, Physician, Army Medical Service, 1811. Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, later Deputy Inspector-General, 1813. On half pay, 1814. Served in Holland, 1799, Egypt, 1801, Peninsular War. K.H. (Civil), 1837. Royal Licence to use K.C.H. instead of K.H., 1842. Knight Bachelor, 1844, Knight of the Crescent (2nd Class), M.D.Edin., 1808, F.R.C.P., 1841. Physician to the Duke of Londonderry. Physician to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic
Hospital, which post he resigned in 1827 in consequence of a quarrel with Guthrie. He died in London in 1852, aged 73. His war service is quoted from Johnston's Roll of the Army Medical Service. In his obituary notice his war service is given as follows. Helder, 1799, Ferrol, 1800, Egypt, 1800-1801, West Indies, 1803, with Sir John Moore, in Galicia, 1808-9, Peninsular War, for which he had the medal with five clasps, Egypt, Corunna, Busaco, Badajos, and San Sebastian. Evidently it was just as easy in those days to see a large amount of the world at Government expense as it has been in more modern times.

Guthrie senior and Forbes had a dispute. The cause of this seems childish after these long years. The beginning of the trouble was the old one of one member of a staff going in and altering the treatment of a colleague during his absence. Forbes published two pamphlets giving an account of it. The trouble was referred to in the Lancet of May 26, 1827.

"Dr. Forbes examines about a third of 150 of these poor creatures, the rest are seen by Mr. Guthrie, who does not arrive until half past twelve o'clock and sometimes not at all and there does not appear to be any efficient House Surgeon to act in his absence. It is sad work." (The poor creatures, needless to say, are the patients attending the hospital). Sir Charles Forbes fought a duel with a certain Mr. Hale Thomson on grounds connected with this dispute. The pamphlet contains a certified account of the episode. The principals exchanged two shots each without effect, a third brace of pistols were then discharged equally without effect. The seconds then decided that this was enough and did not permit the affair to proceed any further, although a reconciliation had not been effected. Had they continued the duel after the seconds had left, this no doubt would have made them liable to a criminal charge of manslaughter.

Charles William Gardiner Guthrie was born in 1816 and died in 1859 at the age of 42 years. He was the son of G. J. Guthrie. He was educated at Westminster School, and became a perpetual pupil at St. George's Hospital, entering under Robert Keate, in 1832. He was House Surgeon there 1837-8 and took his M.R.C.S. in the latter year. His F.R.C.S., dated from 1853. He was Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital and to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. He was apprenticed to his father at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1832. He introduced the operation of tenotomy for the cure of squint into England. His paper on "The Cure of Squinting" was published in 1841. This was the report laid before the Governors of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital on the result of operations
performed between April 18, 1840 and February 18, 1841. It begins with a list of the Vice-Presidents and staff of the Hospital with the Duke of Wellington as President. Among the officials is Mr. G. F. Knox, of 7 Conduit Street, who is the Hospital Cupper and is also Cupper to the Westminster Hospital.

The operative cure of squinting seems to have been introduced into England at this period and performed extensively by Guthrie junior. His operative record is astounding. During 10 months he did 537 operations for convergent squint and 30 operations for diverging strabismus. He was the fashionable surgeon with a vengeance. Fifty-six squint operations a month, even if they were only tenotomies, was big business.

Dieffenbach, of Berlin, seems to have been the first to perform tenotomy for squint. One Mr. Pyper, a student who went over from England for study, had helped Dieffenbach with several of the operations and brought back an account of the method. With true enthusiasm he had a set of instruments made. Then the difficulty was to find a suitable and willing patient in order to make the first start. Guthrie’s results were wonderful: “In no instance under my care has the sight of the eye operated on been lost or impaired.” In his article hospital patients are mentioned by name and address, private patients only by initials.

The operation that he did was practically the same as the open method that we perform now, except that the division of the tendon was done with a small knife. Eight of his cases diverged afterwards, of which four had the opposing rectus divided with success. After-treatment consisted of a pad and bandage and bathing with cold water. When one reads of his success in operating with no particular precautions against dirt and sepsis, one wonders whether our vaunted methods of irrigation before operation are as essential as we suppose.

He seems a little uncertain in his language when describing cases of squint and one might infer that in some cases both eyes squinted at the same time. “In the great majority of cases of squinting, one eye only is implicated, whatever may have been the cause which gave rise to the complaint. In a smaller number both eyes have suffered although only one is manifestly affected, yet the second at times shows that it is not free from the infirmity which is so marked in the other, and the cure of the first will sometimes be followed by the recovery of the second.”

Henry Hancock.—Born in 1809 and died in 1880. M.R.C.S. in 1834 and F.R.C.S. in 1843, one of the original 300 Fellows of the College of Surgeons. He was born at Bread Street Hill, the son
of a City merchant. He went to Mr. Butters' school in Cheyne Walk and later to the Westminster Hospital. He acted there as House Surgeon and was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in 1835. He was elected Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School in 1836, and was appointed Assistant-Surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital in 1839, becoming Surgeon in 1840, and Consulting Surgeon in 1872. He acted as Ophthalmic Surgeon there in 1841. Hancock was House Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital in 1832, Assistant-Surgeon in 1840, full Surgeon in 1845, and Consulting Surgeon in 1870. He was a Member of the Council of the College of Surgeons from 1863 to 1880 and of the Court of Examiners 1870 to 1875; Chairman of the Midwifery Board in 1871; Vice-President in 1870 and 1871; President of the College in 1872 and Hunterian Orator in 1873. Arris and Gale Professor in 1866-7. As an oculist he invented an operation for dividing the ciliary muscle for the relief of glaucoma. He retired to Wiltshire and died of cancer of the stomach in 1880. I could not find any mention of eye work in any of his publications.

**Bury Irwin Dasent.**—He became M.R.C.S. in 1838. He was never a Fellow of the College. (The Fellowship was only instituted in 1843.) He practised at 11 Pall Mall. He had been House Surgeon at the Westminster Hospital and was Assistant-Surgeon at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital 1845-7. He was a Fellow of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society. In the Calendar of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1850 his address is given as St. Vincent, British West Indies.

**Edwin Canton.**—Born in 1817 and died in 1885. M.R.C.S. in 1839. F.R.C.S., 1845. He was a student of King's College Hospital and also of Charing Cross Hospital. He was Assistant-Surgeon at Charing Cross in 1841, Surgeon in 1855, and Consulting Surgeon in 1877. Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital 1854-5.

He wrote a book of 228 pages on *Arcus Senilis*. In this book all the s's in the text are printed with the old-fashioned long ‘s.’ This makes the reading of the letterpress somewhat difficult.

**Jabez Hogg** lived at 1 Bedford Square. He became M.R.C.S. in 1850. He was not a Fellow. He was Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital 1855-77 and was a student at Charing Cross Hospital. He was Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Masonic Schools. He was President of the Medical Microscopic Society of London and Vice-President of the Medical Society. He was a prolific writer on many subjects, the chief one dealing with the microscope. He wrote a manual of Ophthalmoscopic Surgery in 1868. This book contains pictures in colours of various conditions of the fundus. It contains a good account of the direct
and indirect method of using the ophthalmoscope but gives no
details of operative procedure.

Henry Power.—Born in 1828, died in 1911. M.R.C.S. in 1851,
F.R.C.S. in 1854. London University had recently started and he
won the prize for Chemistry in the Matriculation Examination;
the Gold Medal in Anatomy and Physiology in the First
M.B. in 1852, and the Medal and Scholarship in Surgery
and Anatomy in the Final M.B. He was the son of
John Francis Power, Captain in 35th Royal Sussex Regiment
and Hannah his second wife, youngest daughter of Henry
Simpson, Banker, of Whitby, Yorkshire. He was born at
Nantes and was educated at several schools owing to his father
being constantly on the move on account of his military duties.
He was at Cheltenham College 1842-44. He was apprenticed to
Thomas Lowe Wheeler, the son of Thomas Wheeler, the Apothecary
to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital. Thomas Lowe Wheeler died
shortly afterwards and Power was transferred to his son, Thomas
Rivington Wheeler. Power became a student at St. Bartholomew’s
in 1844. He had studied Latin, Greek and Botany and obtained
the Galen and Linnaean Medals of the Society of Apothecaries in
1851.

In 1854 he married his first cousin, Ann Simpson, the daughter
of Thomas Simpson, of Meadowfield, Whitby. He was appointed
Demonstrator of Anatomy at Westminster Hospital and in
1855 was elected Assistant-Surgeon of the Royal Westminster
Ophthalmic Hospital. He retired from this hospital in 1889 and
was elected Consulting Surgeon. He was elected Assistant-
Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital in 1857. From this appoint-
ment he retired in 1867 owing to his determination to devote
himself entirely to ophthalmology. He was appointed Ophthalmic
Surgeon to St. George’s Hospital in 1867, retiring in 1870, when
he was elected Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s
Hospital. He was also Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s
Hospital, Chatham. He was Vice-President of the Ophthalmical
Society of the United Kingdom, 1882-5. Bowman
Lecturer in 1887. President 1890-3. Member of the Council,
Royal College of Surgeons, 1879-90. Vice-President in 1886.
Arris and Gale Lecturer in 1882-3. Hunterian Professor in 1885-7.
Bradshaw Lecturer in 1886. President of the Harveian Society in
1880-1.

From 1881 he occupied himself in rebuilding Bagdale Hall,
Whitby, a house built in 1540 and which had been in possession of
his wife’s family. In 1898 while watching a storm on the pier his
daughter and grandchild were swept away by a wave and drowned.
One of his sons is Sir D’Arcy Power, K.B.E., F.R.C.S.,
Consulting Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital. He wrote
a book on Diseases of the Eyes, in 1868, which contains many good illustrations in colour. For obstructed nasal ducts he recommends the use of Bowman's probes. He strongly condemns the burning out of the lacrimal sac with zinc chloride in cases of obstruction. Apparently this latter procedure was still in common use with some surgeons. Probes for the nasal duct made from laminaria are mentioned, but these are not recommended as they were inclined to break and leave a piece of laminaria in the duct. Retinoscopy was unknown at that period but a good account is given of the treatment of astigmatism by cylindrical lenses after a subjective test.

James Rouse was born in Fulham in 1830, eldest son of Robert Rouse, Surgeon, of Walham Green. He entered St. George's Hospital as a perpetual pupil under the care of Caesar Hawkins. House Surgeon, 1850-1. M.R.C.S., 1851. F.R.C.S., 1863. Domestic Surgeon to Lord Ashburton in 1851. Members of the aristocracy seem to have given up this habit of appointing eminent specialists as their domestic medical advisers. He was Demonstrator of Anatomy and Surgical Registrar at St. George's Hospital, Assistant-Surgeon, 1867-75. Surgeon, 1875-95. Consulting Surgeon, 1895. Died in Wilton Crescent in 1895 aged 65 years. He was Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, 1859 to 1890, and Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth. He seems to have written no books or articles. When I was a student at St. George's he was still remembered for his large red hands and for the extreme delicacy of his touch when doing cataract operations.

George Cowell.—Born in 1836, died in 1927, aged 91 years. The son of George Kersey Cowell, M.R.C.S., of Ipswich. He was a pupil at the Birmingham General Hospital. He then entered St. George's Hospital as a post-graduate student in 1861. M.R.C.S., L.M. and L.S.A. in 1858. F.R.C.S. in 1867. House Surgeon to the West London Hospital. He was the virtual founder of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Tite Street, Chelsea, where he was Surgeon and also Ophthalmic Surgeon for 20 years. He was Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital from 1872 to 1896, and was attached to the Staff of the Westminster Hospital for 56 years. He was there Lecturer on Surgery and Ophthalmic Surgery for 20 years. He was Surgeon to the East London Hospital for Children and Lecturer on Surgery and Ophthalmology at the London School of Medicine for Women. A truly energetic man. . .

He published a book of lectures on cataract in 1883. He quotes the results of 100 operations for cataract performed by himself. Three eyes were lost from panophthalmitis. Seven eyes had very
defective vision but the remaining 90 eyes operated on could be described as successes. Sepsis in those days did not affect the ophthalmic departments so severely as the general surgical wards. We moderns should be duly humble when we compare our results with our forebears.

NOTTIDGE CHARLES MACNAMARA.—Born in 1832, died in 1918. M.R.C.S. in 1854. F.R.C.S. in 1875. Hon. F.R.C.S.I., 1887. He was the son of Daniel MacNamara, Surgeon, of Uxbridge. He was a student of King's College Hospital and immediately after qualification he entered the Bengal Army as Assistant-Surgeon; was promoted Surgeon in 1866 and Surgeon-Major in 1873, and retired in 1876. He served in the Sonthal Rebellion 1855-6 and in the Mutiny in 1857. He held the Chair of Ophthalmic Surgery in Calcutta and was also Surgeon-Superintendent of the Mayo Hospital. At the age of 42 he retired from India and passed the F.R.C.S. Examination in 1875. In the same year he was appointed full Surgeon at the Westminster Hospital passing over the heads of three Assistant-Surgeons. This must have caused a disturbance in the medical world! He was also Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. Both posts he held until he was 65 in 1897. He was President of the Section of Ophthalmology at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in 1891. Member of the Council of the College of Surgeons from 1885 to 1901. Vice-President in 1898. Bradshaw Lecturer in 1895. Hunterian Orator in 1901. In 1887 he came to the help of J. Y. W. MacAlister in guaranteeing £23,000 for the purchase of 20 Hanover Square for the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society. He married a daughter of the Hon. Henry Vincent Bayler and had a family of sons and daughters. He died at the age of 86.

HENRY EDWARD JULER.—Born in 1842, died in 1921. M.R.C.S. in 1867. F.R.C.S. in 1879. He was born in Suffolk, the son of Dr. H. C. Juler, a local practitioner of Huguenot descent. He was a student at St. Mary's Hospital. He was appointed Pathologist at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital and with the help of his colleagues laid the foundation of the School of Ophthalmology there. He was Surgeon to the Hospital from 1881 to 1898. In 1884 he was assistant to Sir Anderson Critchett at St. Mary's Hospital and was responsible for the out-patient work and the teaching in ophthalmology.

When Sir Anderson Critchett retired in 1901 Juler became Senior Ophthalmic Surgeon to the hospital and the subordinate post in which he had worked for 20 years was formally recognized by the creation of an Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeoncy. He was also Ophthalmic Surgeon to the London Lock Hospital. He was President of the Harveian Society in 1899 and Vice-President of the Ophthalmological Society at the same time.
WILLIAM ADAMS FROST, M.R.C.S. 1874. L.R.C.P. in 1875. F.R.C.S. in 1878. He was a student at St. George's Hospital and also studied in Vienna. He was Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital from 1883 to 1906. Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon at St. George's Hospital 1881 to 1893. Surgeon 1893 to 1906. Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon, 1906. Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Victoria Hospital for Children. He was Librarian of the Ophthalmological Society for 20 years and Vice-President, 1906-9. Lecturer on Ophthalmic Surgery at St. George's Hospital Medical School.

His great work was his book "The Fundus Oculi," a book of magnificent illustrations of the fundus, published in 1896. He had a series of lantern slides made from these pictures and presented them to the Ophthalmological Society and to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital where they are still in use. It used to be the privilege of the House Surgeon for the time being at the hospital to work the lantern for him for these lectures. I had the benefit of three courses of lectures on the fundus oculi during my period of office as House Surgeon. He is still with us and enjoys good health in retirement.

GUSTAVUS HARTRIDGE.—Born in 1850, died in 1923. M.R.C.S. in 1872. F.R.C.S. in 1874. The son of James Hartridge, of Yalding, Kent. He was educated at King's College Hospital. Assistant-Surgeon at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital. Afterwards Surgeon, 1883-1909, to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital and then Consulting Surgeon. He was Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital. He was also Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. He published a most successful book on Refraction which went through 16 English editions, besides American editions, and has had many imitators since.

BENJAMIN WAINEWRIGHT.—Born in 1853, died, at Pontresina, in 1910. M.B., C.M., Edin., 1880. M.R.C.S. in 1883. F.R.C.S. in 1883. He passed the last two examinations together. He studied and graduated at Edinburgh University where he was Demonstrator of Anatomy. He came to London and was appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the West London Hospital with charge of the Aural Department. He was Assistant-Surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital 1888-1891, and to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital 1887-1894. He had private means and early resigned hospital work to devote himself to private ophthalmological practice. He was a keen mountaineer and a member of the Alpine Club.

HENRY WORK DODD.—Born in 1860, died in 1921. M.R.C.S. in 1881. F.R.C.S. in 1888. Born at Victoria, Vancouver Island, the son of Charles Dodd, of the Hudson Bay Company. He came
to England at the age of three years. He was educated at the Norwich Grammar School, and was a pupil of Dr. Gibson, of Norwich and attended the Norwich Hospital. Before coming to London he was Resident Surgical Dresser (a student's appointment) at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. He finished his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of which he was elected a Governor in 1896. He was elected Surgical Registrar at the Royal Free Hospital in 1889 and Assistant-Surgeon in 1890. Was appointed Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon in 1896 becoming full Ophthalmic Surgeon in 1900. He was Lecturer on Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery at the London School of Medicine for Women. He became Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon in 1913. He was Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital from 1890 to 1915, and also Ophthalmic Surgeon to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous system. He was Surgeon in earlier life to a ship of the Telegraph Construction Company voyaging to South America, South Africa and Cochin China. He was a keen Volunteer and retired as a Major R.A.M.C. (T.) He was a member of the Savage and Reform clubs, and an enthusiastic singer with a fine bass voice.

He wrote an article on Resection of the Superior Cervical Ganglion for Glaucoma and also devised a method of cauterizing the cornea in a horse-shoe-shaped manner for cases of conical corneae.

Donald Gunn, M.R.C.S. in 1883. F.R.C.S. in 1889. He was a student at University College. He was Surgeon at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital 1895-1902. Ophthalmic Surgeon, Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich and also the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. He was Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Westminster Hospital and also a Surgeon in the Navy. He retired owing to ill-health but is still alive in retirement.

John Griffith.—Born in 1866, died in 1901. M.R.C.S. in 1889. F.R.C.S., 1894. Born at Aston, Oxfordshire, the son of the Rev. George Sandham Griffith. He was educated at Royse's School, Abingdon and under Dr. Grove, of St. Ives, Huntingdon. He was a student at St. Mary's Hospital. He was there Senior Clinical Ophthalmic Assistant and held this post until his death. He was Assistant-Surgeon and then full Surgeon at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital from 1895 to 1901, having previously held the post of Pathologist. During the last five years of his life he assisted Sir Anderson Critchett and H. E. Juler in their private practices. He died of phthisis. Earlier he had been Assistant-Demonstrator of Anatomy and Assistant-Pathologist and Curator at St. Mary's Hospital.

Frederick Bass.—Born in 1852, died in 1899. M.R.C.S. in 1882. F.R.C.S. in 1885. He was educated at St. Bartholomew's
Hospital and in Vienna. He was in general practice for some years at Tufnell Park, N. He was at one time Assistant Aural Surgeon to the Dispensary and Senior Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy at the School of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne. He settled in Upper Wimpole Street and was an Assistant-Surgeon at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital for some months.

This account brings me down to modern times, to colleagues who are enjoying the fruits of their labours. One must leave it to a future historian to continue the history.

The list of references includes all ophthalmic work published by members of the Staff of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital in the past. Many of them have written also on surgery or general subjects, but these I have not mentioned as not being of interest to readers.

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