THE death of Samuel Alexander Kinnier Wilson on May 12 at the early age of 58 years is a severe blow to neurology not only in Great Britain but also all over the world, and is a great loss to ophthalmology also.

Kinnier Wilson was born in the United States in 1878 and was educated in Edinburgh. He qualified M.B.Edin. in 1902 and served as house physician in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In the following year he obtained the B.Sc. with honours in physiology. A research scholarship enabled him to put in post-graduate work at Paris; and on his return to England he became house physician at the National Hospital, Queen Square. At the expiration of this appointment he became resident medical officer, and later registrar and pathologist. He was elected to the honorary staff in 1913, became physician to out-patients in 1921 and physician to in-patients in 1925. It was not until 1912 that he took his M.D.Edin., securing the gold medal. His connection with the Royal College of Physicians began with his taking the M.R.C.P. in 1907; seven years later he became F.R.C.P., and in 1925 he gave the Croonian lectures. In 1912 he joined the staff of the Westminster Hospital and was at one time Dean of the Medical School. In 1919 he resigned his appointment at the Westminster Hospital on being elected junior neurologist at King's College Hospital.

It was in 1912 that he contributed to Brain the description of progressive lenticular degeneration which has ever since borne the name of Wilson's disease.

In 1920 he was appointed the first Editor of the Journal of Neurology and Psychopathology, a post which he held until the end of his life.

Wilson was the author of numerous papers on such neurological subjects as aphasia, epilepsy and narcolepsy. His purely ophthalmological writings were infrequent and were mainly concerned with the ophthalmoplegias. In 1921 at a combined meeting of the Neurological and Ophthalmological sections of the Royal Society of Medicine, Kinnier Wilson contributed to a discussion on "Ocular palsies"; he confined his remarks to the question of a possible unilateral cranial polynueritis. In the same year he read a paper at the Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom on "Psychological peculiarities in certain visual auras in epilepsy." He had been a member of the Society since 1911. He was elected one of the secretaries in 1915 and served for the customary period of three years, when he became a member of the
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Council, and was succeeded as medical secretary by the present writer. Kinnier Wilson also served for many years as a trustee both of the Society and of the Nettleship Prize Fund.

In 1930 he gave the Morison lecture before the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh. Kinnier Wilson was a fluent speaker in French and German; he had a great reputation abroad as well as at home and was made an honorary member of many foreign Neurological Societies. As a lecturer, his power of lucid exposition of the most intricate problems of neurology has seldom been equalled. It was a pleasure to listen to him and when he was lecturing at Queen Square, the theatre was filled to capacity.

Our illustration, kindly lent by Mr. Paton, shows Kinnier Wilson as he was a few years back. In Stephen Paget’s Life of Sir Victor Horsley is a photograph of the operating theatre at Queen Square in 1906, which shows amongst others, Kocher, of Berne, Horsley, S. A. K. Wilson, and “Loo” Powell, giving an anaesthetic with the Vernon-Harcourt inhaler.

NOTES

THE XVth International Congress is arranged for Cairo December 8—14, 1937. The two official subjects of the Congress will be:


Two exhibitions are being arranged:

1. A scientific exhibition, comprising anatomical and pathological specimens, slides, photographs, radiographs, etc.

2. A commercial exhibition, comprising instruments, apparatus, drugs, etc.

The Secretary General of the Congress is Dr. M. Tewfic. The fee for membership for a medical man is 50 Swiss francs. Fees for ladies and other associate members are 25 Swiss francs per person. The latter can attend receptions, excursions, etc., but cannot attend the scientific meetings, nor will they receive a copy of the Reports.

In connexion with the Congress the following information sent by Dr. Tewfic to Mr. MacCallan is of importance:

“I have received, with pleasure, your letter dated April 19 and am glad to tell you that we have obtained 50 per cent. reduction