

In the afternoon the party left for Galway and on July 23 Mr. G. Everard Hewson showed, at the Regional Hospital, Galway, a large number of cases, including several interesting families with musculo-fascial anomalies and also displayed a fibre-optic laser. The time allowed for this visit barely did justice to the wealth of cases gathered but each member of the party found fuel for subsequent discussion.

The final day of the tour was held in the newly built Eye Department of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. The morning was spent seeing operations in four theatres and the afternoon in discussing clinical cases.

What this itinerary has failed to show is the manner in which the party was received—they were overwhelmed not only by the effort put into the clinical meetings but also by the kind hospitality at each centre.

All the registrars wish to convey their thanks to the Faculty of Ophthalmologists for the opportunity of meeting together and visiting these ophthalmic centres in Ireland.

Obituary

Henry MacNeil Symons, 1912–1969

Henry MacNeil Symons died at his home in Tunbridge Wells on August 24, 1969, at the age of 57. After qualifying M.B., B.S. Melbourne in 1935 he chose to specialize in ophthalmology and was appointed house-surgeon to the Melbourne Eye and Ear Hospital. In 1959 he came to England, passed the D.O.M.S., and was appointed house-surgeon and then registrar to the Royal Eye Hospital. He hoped to join the Australian Imperial Force Medical Corps in the Middle East, but ill-health prevented his serving overseas so from 1941–45 he served in the R.A.M.C. in the United Kingdom.

After the war he was appointed Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Kent and Sussex Hospital and the Homoeopathic Hospital at Tunbridge Wells, and Ophthalmic Specialist to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and to the East Sussex and Kent Education Authorities.

He was born in Australia in 1912 and it was a matter of regret to him that he was not in time to be an Edwardian. However, his constant courtesy, gentle manners, and consideration for the feelings of others matched the best graces of the Edwardian era. At his school in Ballarat in Australia he showed early signs of cultural brilliance in music, English, and French literature. He was so gifted a pianist that a career in music was contemplated on his entrance to Ormonde College, Melbourne University. His Scottish ancestry and the stern Presbyterian discipline of his upbringing contributed to his resolution to achieve perfection in whatsoever his hand and mind found to do. He was an absolutely reliable clinician and careful eye surgeon always in the van of advances in cataract surgery. Besides his professional competency he was a good painter, gardener, carpenter, photographer, and bricklayer, and in later years he became a crack shot with a sports gun. He will be remembered for his absolute professional integrity and honesty, for his enthusiasm and sustained interest in whatever he was doing, and for his intelligent contributions at ophthalmological meetings and congresses. His loss is great for his patients and many friends. He lived life fully and unselfishly. Towards the end of his life his courage and infinite patience were admirable. Our sympathy in this premature tragedy is with his widow and three sons.