

Obituary

Frederick Arnold Williamson-Noble, 1889–1969

Mr. F. A. Williamson-Noble, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (with Ophthal.), Consulting Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital, the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, died on February 27, 1969. He was born on July 26, 1889, and educated at Oundle School, Queen's College, Cambridge, and St. Mary's Hospital



Medical School, where he qualified in 1914. He joined the Royal Navy upon the outbreak of the first world war and served throughout the period of hostilities. He was present at the Battle of Jutland, and in the next ship in line of battle the medical officer was Surgeon-Lieutenant Cecil Wakeley, now Sir Cecil Wakeley, lately President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Williamson-Noble returned to St. Mary's after demobilization and became house surgeon to Mr. Warren Low. He decided to specialize in ophthalmology and took the F.R.C.S. together with those extra papers which allowed him to be designated the first fellow with Ophthalmology. He was appointed to the post of supernumerary ophthalmic surgeon to St. Mary's in 1924 and he joined Leslie Paton and Frank Juler in a very happy association which continued for many years. Upon the retirement of Leslie Paton he became Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon at St. Mary's and at about the same time he was appointed surgeon to the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital (later to amalgamate with the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital

and the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital to form Moorfields Eye Hospital). He was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Mary's when Frank Juler retired. He was a very enthusiastic ophthalmologist, who attended, most regularly, all the ophthalmic meetings and who always had his own definite opinions regarding developments in the specialty. He served as Master of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, and as Vice President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and he was the first Treasurer of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists. He served for many years as a member of the Editorial Board of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* and was Civilian Consultant in Ophthalmology to the Royal Navy.

Throughout his life he was a rowing enthusiast. He rowed in the Queen's College May Boat and was President of the St. Mary's Hospital Boat Club for many years. He was a most generous supporter of this club in a material way and a regular attender at all their activities. He was also an interested golfer and, in his younger days, a keen skier. He was a quiet man with great personal charm, an excellent teacher of undergraduates and of his Residents and Registrars. He took an intense personal interest in all his patients and he was greatly loved by most of them. He was the joint author with the late Humphrey Neame of "A Handbook of Ophthalmology" and was a regular contributor to the ophthalmic journals.

He was one of the most eminent ophthalmic surgeons in England of his time and was held in great esteem by his colleagues. He is survived by his widow and by one of his sons, and to them we offer our sympathy.