OBITUARY

WALTER WILLIAM SINCLAIR was born at Aberdeen in 1868. He was the son of Thomas S. Sinclair-Spark, Advocate, of Aberdeen and Banchory. He was never robust, and much of his education was by private tuition abroad. His medical education was at Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1891. Deciding to specialize in ophthalmology, he held the posts of clinical assistant at the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, and of Senior House Surgeon at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital.

He began to practise in Ipswich as an ophthalmic surgeon in 1896, and was very quickly invited to join the staff of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital as ophthalmic surgeon, an appointment which he held until obliged by failing health to relinquish it in 1920. He continued his private practice until increasing weakness compelled him to take to his bed in November last.

Although so much of his life was spent in England, he remained a thorough Scotsman. His heart was in the Highlands, and he looked forward to spending a few happy years after retirement from active work in the home of his childhood, which he much loved. He married in 1899 and leaves a widow and three daughters.

Although practising in Ipswich, he was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Ophthalmological Society. He had been a Member of the Council and contributed several papers to the Transactions.

He had established a great reputation as an ophthalmic surgeon, not only in Ipswich, but throughout the whole of East Anglia, a reputation which was thoroughly deserved. He was most thorough and conscientious in his examination of every patient who came before him, a most accurate diagnostician, and a very skilful operator. His work at the East Suffolk Hospital did very much to enhance the reputation of that Institution, and was fully recognized by the Board of Management, who named the recently established ophthalmic wards the "Sinclair Wards" to perpetuate his memory.

In addition to his professional attainments he was a musician of exceptional ability and did much to encourage music in Ipswich and the neighbourhood. Had he adopted music as his profession there is no doubt he would have attained a very high position in the musical world. He originated the Ipswich Orchestral Society, and conducted at every concert until 1915, when failing health compelled him to relinquish the baton. His great success as a conductor was recognized by all, and his enthusiasm for music, sympathetic nature, and personal magnetism inspired the Society...
to reach the high standard which it has attained. He had a keen sense for literature, and an intimate knowledge of the French language. His literary style was characterized by lucidity of thought and gracefulness and simplicity of diction. He was one of the most modest and unassuming of men, of a nature transparently honest, and straightforward. He thought ill of no one, never harboured an unkind thought or did an unkind action; no trouble was too much for him if he could do a service to a fellow creature. He was universally beloved and respected by all who knew him in every class of life; their feelings are well expressed in the following short extract from the East Anglian Daily Times of February 8, the day after his funeral.

"To the large number of people who knew Dr. Sinclair his death has brought a very real sadness. Not only have they lost a skilled physician, and a born exponent of music, but they have lost a friend. They knew that in him they had a friend, a real friend, one whose greatest joy was to help others, and who thought evil of no man. Any community must be the poorer by the loss of such a member, but Sinclair's life, devoted to the alleviation of human pain and suffering, his wide humanity, and his gift to us of the uplifting power of music, will live on and inspire others to follow in his footsteps."

HERBERT H. BROWN.

NOTES

ERNEST SIDLER-HUGENIN has died after a long illness at the age of fifty-three years. He was Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology in the University of Zurich and Director of the Cantonal Eye Clinic. Sidler-Hugenin was the leading Swiss authority upon wounds of the eye and their consequences. Hereditary syphilis, glaucoma, tuberculous affections of the eye, myopia, and conjunctivitis petrificans were among the other subjects treated by his prolific pen.

The Annual Dinner, at which 75 were present, was held at the Langham Hotel on February 8. Mr. Cyril Walker, F.R.C.S. (Surgeon to the Bristol Eye Hospital) was in the chair.