SIR JOHN TWEEDY

(1849—1924)
who had been struck on the eye with a large piece of iron, but without dislocation of the lens developed glaucoma. No iritis was present. Paracentesis allowed fluid vitreous to escape, as shown by the fact that the anterior chamber remained the same throughout.

These observations have led me to the conclusion that in the treatment of subluxation of the lens, some other method than extraction of the lens must be sought.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. ANDERSON.

24, College Gardens,
Belfast,
7th January, 1924.

OBITUARY NOTICES

SIR JOHN TWEEDY

OPHTHALMOLOGISTS will have seen with great regret the announcement in the press of the death of SIR JOHN TWEEDY, who was the first surgeon practising purely as an ophthamologist to obtain the highest of professional honours, the Presidency of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. This is not to say that no one interested in ophthalmology had preceded him in the Presidential chair, for Lawrence, Guthrie, Hancock, Hulke and Sir Jonathan Hutchinson were more than well known in their day as ophthalmologists, but they were all, even Hutchinson, general surgeons as well, and the fact remains that Tweedy was the first Ophthalmic Surgeon to hold this office. Tweedy was born at Stockton-on-Tees in 1849, the son of John Tweedy of that town and of Northallerton. He was educated at Elmfield College, York, and at University College, London, proceeding naturally from the College to University College Hospital for the professional part of his education. He obtained his qualification in 1872 and four years later took the F.R.C.S. A paper of his, published in the Lancet as early as 1871 on "stellation of the normal and cataractous lens" showed the ophthalmological bent of his mind. He kept in touch with his general hospital by holding for a time the post of Assistant Dermatologist, but he, very early in his career, began work at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, in the service of which institution many of the best years of his life were spent; he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Hospital in 1879. At about the same time he obtained the appointment of Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Great Northern Hospital, and in 1881, that of Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon to
University College Hospital, his senior colleague being the late John Fremlyn Streatfeild, whose death at a comparatively early age was a severe blow to the science of ophthalmology. After five years on the junior staff, he succeeded to the senior post and became Professor of Ophthalmology; these posts he held until 1904 and he was Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital during the greater part of this time as well. Tweedy obtained his first seat on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1892 and he was President from 1903 to 1906, receiving the honour of Knighthood in the year of his retirement; other honours were accorded to him, such as the LL.D. of Edinburgh University, and the F.R.C.S. (Hon.) of Edinburgh; he was a trustee of the Hunterian collection and a member of the Medical Consultative Board of the Navy. While President of the Royal College of Surgeons, he was also President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, a society of which he was an original member, of whom only seventeen now survive. He was President of the Medico-Legal Society, the Medical Defence Union and of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, while he was a member of King Edward’s Hospital Fund for London for many years, serving on the Distribution Committee. His powers of organization led him to be in great request for such offices and it is not too much to say that he was always ready to put his powers at the service of his fellow practitioners; few men have done so much unostentatious work for their fellows as Sir John Tweedy.

As a writer on professional subjects Tweedy did much useful work; he wrote no textbook, but he edited for many years the “Mirror of Hospital Practice” of the Lancet and wrote “Leaders” for that Journal; he did not write much on his special subject, for, as pointed out in the obituary of him in the Lancet, both Brudenell Carter and Henry Power were his seniors in the office while in the Centenary number of that journal it was stated that he had been offered the editorship at one time, but preferred to remain in practice. The writer remembers at a “Moorfields” old students’ dinner many years ago a speaker said, in proposing his health, what a pity it was that Tweedy had not written more; doubtless he was referring to the purely ophthalmic side of his writings, and Tweedy, in his reply, stated his opinion that he had written a very great deal.

He was Master of the Company of Barbers in 1908, when the Company celebrated its sexcentenary, and when the Company instituted the Thomas Vicary lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons, it was but fitting that he should have been chosen to deliver the first lecture.

He was a good Latin scholar and had a sound knowledge of Greek, and was much interested in the history of medicine and the
ancient classical writers. His health was not robust, for he laboured under a difficulty of respiration all his life.

He conducted for many years a large practice in private; his clinical methods were remarkable for a thoroughness in what might be termed minutiae; he paid much attention to errors of refraction at a time when small errors where not held to be of such outstanding importance as they are to-day; as a clinician, he was a past master, and his opinion was much in demand in consultation amongst his brothers in the ophthalmic fraternity.

On his retirement from University College Hospital he was elected Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology.

Tweedy married in 1885 the daughter of Richard Hilhouse, of Finsbury Place, and had three children, two sons and a daughter. To Lady Tweedy and her family we wish to express our sincere sympathy.

ARTHUR CHARLES ROPER

ARTHUR CHARLES Roper, whose death took place at his residence at Exeter on January 11, came of an old West Country stock. His father, Mr. C. H. Roper, was a leading surgeon in Exeter, and served the office of Sheriff of the City, while his grandfather, Mr. W. Kennaway, was Mayor of Exeter in 1830 and 1836. Roper was born in 1858, and was educated at the Old Mount Radford School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; he qualified M.R.C.S.Eng. in 1880, and took the L.R.C.P.Edin. and L.M. in 1881, proceeding in 1890 to the F.R.C.S.Edin. For more than 40 years he had practised in his native city, and he occupied a leading place, not only in the city, but also in the County of Devon. Roper was connected with the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for 25 years and on retirement was elected Consulting Surgeon. A few years ago, he took a leading part in organizing an appeal by which more than £6,000 was subscribed for the building of new wards for children, and one of the new wards was named after him. His connexion with the West of England Eye Infirmary began in 1881 and as an ophthalmic surgeon, he was one of the best known men in the West of England. His other appointments included those of Consulting Surgeon to the Exeter Dispensary, the Exeter Hospital, Exeter Lying-in Charity and the Sidmouth Cottage Hospital, and he was Oculist to the Western Counties Institute for Mental Defectives and to the West of England Blind Institute. He was President of the South-West of England Ophthalmological Society in 1923.

Roper was elected Mayor of Exeter in 1920 and became J.P. in 1922. He took an active part in the proceedings of the British