

FRANK KIDD, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.

Late Surgeon to the London Hospital

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frank Kidd, the well-known surgeon and urological specialist, which occurred at his country house, Bransbury Mill, Barton Stacey, on May 12th.

Francis Seymour Kidd was a son of the late Dr. Joseph Kidd, and was born at Charlton, Kent, on March 30th, 1878. Educated at Winchester in 1890-6, and later at Trinity College, Cambridge, he went to the London Hospital, and was awarded the surgical scholarship there in 1902. He qualified in 1903, taking in that year both the diplomas of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and the Cambridge B.Ch. degree. After doing several house appointments at the London Hospital he became demonstrator of anatomy in the medical college, and took the F.R.C.S. in 1905. The appointment of surgical registrar followed in 1906, and afterwards he did post-graduate work in Berlin and elsewhere. The months he passed in Berlin made a great impression on him, and he was always a great admirer of German urology and urologists. He felt that there was no better start for a urological career than six months or a year spent at some German clinic. One of the last of many foreign professional distinctions he received, and one that he prized very highly, was his election as a corresponding member of the Berliner Urologische Gesellschaft in 1931.

Frank Kidd became assistant surgeon to the London Hospital in 1910, and in the same year published his first important work—*Urinary Surgery*. This book is a review of the state of urinary surgery at that time, and as such can still be read with pleasure and profit. It was the first of a long series of writings, and differs from the others in that it was of necessity completed before the author had much operative experience, whereas all his later works were essentially practical and the result of his own ripe experience. In his introduction to the book he pointed out that the day for treating symptoms was passing away, and that with the improvement in the technique of ureteric catheterization, the introduction of x rays, the development of bacteriology, and the improvements in the surgery of the prostate, it was now possible to discover the cause of most urinary symptoms, and to treat the cause, when found, with safety.

He was a prolific author, and many of his writings were on the subject of venereal disease. He started a genito-urinary department at the London Hospital, which included a section for the treatment of venereal disease. At first only men were treated, but later the department was enlarged to admit women and children. It had always been his firm conviction—and, now, one that almost everybody would admit—that no urologist could hope to be successful in the fullest sense, or even competent, unless he was fully acquainted with venereal disease and diseases of the urethra. His second book, *Common Diseases of the Male Urethra*, published in 1917, is perhaps his best-known work, and it certainly showed Kidd at his best as a clinician and teacher. It is a simple exposition of the lines on which urethritis in the male can be treated successfully, and it must have guided many beginners in the treatment of gonorrhoea, and prevented them from doing harm. Though the treatment advocated by him in 1917 may not nowadays be universal, it would be difficult to deny that perhaps 80 per cent. of all cases would be cured by the methods laid down in his book, and it was not Kidd's intention to do more than that in a volume written primarily for the inexperienced. He had no illusions about the difficulties of treatment in certain cases, but he deliberately made little or no attempt to deal with these in his book. In 1920 he published *Common Infections of the Female Cervix and Urethra*, in collaboration with Dr. A. Malcolm

Simpson, and in 1924 his last work, *Common Infections of the Kidneys*—both of them very popular books. In addition to his major works he wrote frequently for the journals, and no year passed without some communication from his pen. In these contributions there was usually something new, and the subjects he chose showed the diversity of his interests in his own branch of surgery, while the way in which he treated them illustrated the fact that he was always learning something new from his increasing experience. It is curious that he hardly wrote anything at all about the prostate and prostatic surgery, since he was particularly skilled in this branch of urology, and in his later years, after a trial of many different methods, had gone back to the simplest form of enucleation through a small incision without inspection of the cavity after enucleation.

Kidd had been elected surgeon to the London Hospital in 1917, but owing to ill-health he was compelled to resign in 1920. In addition to this appointment he was consulting surgeon to St. Paul's Hospital, and in 1921 he was made M.Ch.Camb. He was particularly skilful in using the special instruments required in his branch of surgery with the minimum of pain and discomfort to the patient. He was also a clever and dextrous surgeon, who was never disturbed or unnerved when things went badly. The only thing that upset his habitual calm during an operation was an unnecessary question or conversation between onlookers. In the immediate post-operative period he probably worried more than most surgeons, since it was his nature to visualize all the complications and disasters of any operation he had performed, even though he must have known that he had done it so skilfully that the chance of these was reduced to a minimum. There is another side to his character that has little to do with his surgical skill—this is perhaps not so widely known—and it is not surprising that his patients accorded to him a devotion not often given even to the most successful surgeon. He was a good listener, and always sympathetic with his patients, and had much of the good general practitioner's skill in curing them, even when there was no organic lesion. In the course of his practice as a urologist and specialist in venereal diseases he saw many patients with functional symptoms, and he probably has more grateful patients among this class even than among those who were cured by his surgical skill.

He was president of the Urological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1927 and 1928, and was widely known in America and on the Continent, as his many academic honours show. He was a member of the International Society of Urology, a member of the Association Française d'Urologie, a corresponding member of the American Association of Genito-urinary Surgeons, an honorary member of the American Urological Association, a corresponding member of the Berliner Urologische Gesellschaft (as already mentioned), and a corresponding academician of the Royal Medical Academy of Rome.

At Winchester he was in the association football eleven, and later played hockey for the South and was reserve for England. His chief recreations were shooting and fishing. He is survived by his widow and three sons.

MEREDITH YOUNG, M.D., D.P.H.

Dr. Meredith Young, who died on May 7th, will be remembered as Cheshire's second medical officer of health. The first was Dr. Vacher, who did the spade work. Upon Meredith Young, when he "took over," fell the task of improving, modifying, stabilizing, and amplifying an already going concern. His temperament was fitted for the work, a heritage perhaps from a mixed Huguenot and Highland ancestry. He was gentle, subtle, and willing—when he might—to be all things to all men.