

NEWS FROM HOME AND OVERSEAS

MR A. CLIFFORD MORSON, O.B.E., F.R.C.S.

THE progress of urology in Great Britain has been marked by the energetic and devoted efforts of a relatively small number of surgeons. Amongst them the name of Clifford Morson will always be held in the highest esteem. Recognition of his outstanding qualities was shown at the last meeting of the British Association of Urological Surgeons when he was awarded the St Peter's Medal for his services to urology. He has now received another high honour in being elected President of the International Society of Urology, an index of the world-wide regard in which he is held. This is only the second occasion on which the President of the Society has been chosen from these islands, Hurry Fenwick having held the office more than thirty years ago. We feel that these distinctions should not go unrecorded.

Clifford Morson entered Middlesex Hospital as a student in 1901 and qualified in 1906. On 1st January 1907 he was appointed house surgeon to Bland-Sutton and Sampson Handley. There is little doubt that his work with them had a profound influence on his subsequent bias towards urology as his career, for amongst the general surgical cases under his care there were many of particular urological interest. It is appropriate that on the day of his appointment the first patient admitted to his wards was a bus conductor suffering from cystitis; the notes record that the man "was much benefited by urinary antiseptics." During the six months of his appointment he had cases of renal calculus, paraphimosis, hydrocele, carcinoma of the bladder, new growth of the kidney, and congenital cystic disease. Pre-operative investigations were in their infancy and exploratory operations the rule. The first prostatectomy at which he assisted was on 5th February 1907, and in this case a cystoscope was used to confirm the diagnosis. Subsequently the bladder was irrigated with several quarts of water and at the end of the operation it was drained by a tube $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. The patient was discharged cured in seven weeks.

In 1910 Morson became junior house surgeon at St Peter's Hospital and started an association which has lasted already for forty-four years. In 1911 he returned to Middlesex as Research Scholar and Cancer Registrar; in this post he carried out much experimental work and gained an early appreciation of the value of research in clinical practice. He published several papers on malignant disease and on the effects of radium, all of which showed the accurate powers of observation and the cautious attitude towards hasty conclusions which have characterised all his writings. In February 1910 he read a paper on "Hypernephroma of the Kidney" before the Middlesex Hospital Medical Society and crowned his remarks with a demonstration of the forms of catheterising cystoscopes, a novelty which was much appreciated by the members.

He was an original member of the R.N.V.R., which he joined in 1903, and at the outbreak of war in 1914 he took on full naval duties. He saw service in Gallipoli and was awarded the O.B.E.

Returning to civilian life, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to St Peter's Hospital in 1919; his colleagues at this time were Swift Joly, Peter Freyer, Thomson Walker, and Swinford Edwards, a galaxy of talent with which he is justly proud to have been associated. He became full surgeon to St Peter's in 1923; he also held appointments at Hampstead General Hospital and Whipp's Cross Hospital.

During the years between the wars he published numerous papers on urological subjects, all of which bear the stamp of careful observation and critical analysis. He became a protagonist of the Harris method of prostatectomy, and his earlier observations with radium made him a



Photo—Lafayette

A. Clifford Morson

leader in the development of radiotherapy for malignant disease of the urinary tract. In 1933 he was President of the Section of Urology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and in 1947 President of the British Association of Urological Surgeons. His high ideals and devotion to duty in both these offices added lustre to his own name as well as to the organisations which he served so well. He has always been a firm supporter of the International Society of Urology, being present at the meetings in London, Vienna, St Moritz, Barcelona, and New York. For many years he has been

British delegate to the Society, a post from which he will be missed on his elevation to the Presidency. A great traveller, and aided in no small measure in this by his charming wife, he has visited every country in Western Europe from Finland in the north to Yugoslavia and Greece in the south-east. In 1935 he went to America, Canada, and Australia, and he was Vice-President of the Section of Surgery of the British Medical Association at Melbourne in 1935. Throughout his activities he has carried out the busy practice of a consultant.

Since his retirement from the active staff of St Peter's, Clifford Morson has played an important part in the advancement of surgery under the National Health Service. He is a member of the Board of Governors of two undergraduate teaching hospitals, the Middlesex and the Royal Free, and also of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. His ability in urological training and research led to his appointment as the first Director of Studies at the Institute of Urology (University of London), and he is still Chairman of the Academic Board.

Clifford Morson's enthusiasm for all that he undertakes is one of his outstanding qualities. He is himself a wise counsellor and a potent force in debate, and many will remember his pleasure when his son first took part in a discussion at the Section of Urology of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is a stern critic but a kindly adviser, and has helped many of the younger men from the wealth of his own wide experience. We congratulate him warmly on his well-deserved honours and wish him many years of prosperity in which to enjoy them.

E. W. R.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGICAL SURGEONS

President—MR TERENCE MILLIN, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1955—PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual Meeting will be held in London on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 30th June, 1st and 2nd July 1955. A full programme will be circulated later, but the provisional arrangements are as follows:—

Thursday, 30th June.

- Morning.* Business Meeting. Short Papers.
- Afternoon.* Meeting of the Section of Urology of the Royal Society of Medicine.
- Evening.* Annual Dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Friday, 1st July.

- Morning.* Discussion on "Calcification and Calculus Formation in the Upper Urinary Tract." *Openers*: Dr C. E. Dent, Mr L. N. Pyrah, Mr H. Hamilton Stewart.
- Afternoon.* Operating Sessions and Clinical Demonstrations.
- Evening.* Cocktail Party.

Saturday, 2nd July.

- Morning.* Short Papers.

Members and Associate Members who wish to read short papers or show films are asked to submit the titles to the Honorary Secretary *before 26th January 1955*.

Hotel Accommodation.—Members are expected to make their own hotel arrangements and are advised to book early.

HOWARD G. HANLEY,
Honorary Secretary.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGICAL SURGEONS

At a meeting of the Council on 28th October 1954 the following were elected Associate Members: G. J. Fraenkel, F.R.C.S., Oxford, and J. T. Rowling, F.R.C.S., Newport, Mon.

CANADIAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Canadian Urological Association will be held in Toronto from 20th to 24th June 1955. A cordial invitation has been extended to all British urologists. Further particulars can be obtained from Dr Wm. K. Kerr, 516 Medical Arts Buildings, Toronto 5, Ontario.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF UROLOGY

A meeting of British Members was held on 25th November 1954 at the Institute of Urology, London.

As a result of the recent ballot the following were nominated for membership: I. H. Griffiths, London; F. R. Kilpatrick, London; T. Moore, Manchester; D. M. Wallace, London.

Out of a total of forty-six members, forty-three recorded their votes.

It was agreed to propose that the following subjects shall be discussed at the 1958 Congress:—

1. The Uses of the Small Intestine in Urology.
2. The Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra.
3. Cystic Disease of the Kidney.

The three members elected to the National Committee were: Arthur Jacobs, Glasgow; Leslie Pyrah, Leeds; Eric Riches, London.

Mr Eric Riches accepted the invitation to act as delegate in succession to Mr Clifford Morson.

It was agreed that if the 1958 Congress is held in London the President of the Congress shall be Mr Riches.

CLIFFORD MORSON.