

FRANCIS SEYMOUR KIDD

It is with profound regret and with a sense of the deepest loss that we have to record the death of our senior Editor, Mr. Frank Kidd. This occurred suddenly from coronary thrombosis on May 12th, at the age of fifty-six. He had been in indifferent health for the last two and a half years, but his friends had never given up hope of his complete recovery.

The son of Dr. Joseph Kidd, he was born on March 30th, 1878, and was educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge.

He entered the London Hospital in June, 1900, and obtained the Surgical Scholarship in 1902. He qualified, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., in April, 1903, and took the B.Ch.Cantab. in 1903, the M.B.Cantab. in 1905; in the same year he took his F.R.C.S. England, and in 1921 he obtained the M.A., M.Ch.Cantab.

From 1903 to 1906 he was occupied in holding various resident appointments at the London Hospital, and after a course of study in Berlin he was appointed Surgical Registrar in 1906. In June, 1910, he achieved one of his ambitions, that of becoming Assistant Surgeon to the London Hospital; he was appointed Surgeon in 1917. In 1913 he started the Genito-Urinary Department at the Hospital, which from small beginnings had become at the time of his retirement a large and important establishment which was a credit to British Urology and of which he was justly proud.

During these years he established his reputation as one of the leading urologists in England, his enthusiasm for this branch of surgery having been originally stimulated by his old chief, Mr. Hurry Fenwick. As his reputation increased so did his private practice; and by the end of 1920 he found that his health was unable to stand the strain of both his practice and his arduous work at the Hospital; so on medical advice and greatly to his own sorrow he resigned from the Hospital Staff, and thereafter did no more hospital work except in the capacity of Consulting Surgeon to St. Paul's Hospital.

Although he had left the Hospital he loved, he never allowed his enthusiasm for urology to wane, and in 1920 was a member of the Organising Committee that founded the Urological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, holding the office of Honorary Secretary from 1921 to 1923, and in 1927 he was elected to the President's Chair. He read many papers for the Section, and was always ready to contribute his extensive knowledge and experience to the discussions.

His crowning achievement was the birth of the **BRITISH JOURNAL OF UROLOGY** in March, 1929. When it was first suggested that there

should be such a publication Kidd entered into the project with an enthusiasm which was characteristic of him. The fact that many of his colleagues saw difficulties ahead which seemed to spell failure did not in any way diminish his determination that the Journal should come into being and be a success. One may go so far as to say that it was Kidd's influence which brought the BRITISH JOURNAL OF UROLOGY to



[Photograph by Gear.]

life. Perhaps it was some comfort to him during his prolonged illness to know that the infant which he had helped to create had attained a sturdy maturity. His editorial colleagues pay their humble tribute to one whose pioneer work for the Journal has merited the greatest praise and earned their most heartfelt thanks.

He had written several text-books and published a large number of papers on urological subjects, so that his name was well known throughout Europe and America, and twice he had the honour of going to the United

States to address the American urologists. He was also British Delegate at the Congress of the International Association of Urology held in Brussels in 1927.

As well as having an extensive knowledge of his subject, he was also a very skilful and experienced operator, and nothing was too much trouble where his patients were concerned. In those of us who had the pleasure and privilege of working with him, he had the ability to instil his own enthusiasm, and he was always ready to discuss a case and give helpful advice. He was a very loyal colleague and a very generous friend to those who worked with him.

Unfortunately for Frank Kidd, his physique was not in keeping with his enthusiasm and his restless energy. He found it very difficult to relax, so that the strain told more and more on his health, and in November, 1931, his health broke down and he had temporarily to give up practice.

In his youth he was quite a good athlete, and was reserve for England at hockey. Since the war he had become an excellent shot and a keen fisherman.

He leaves a widow and three sons, to whom we extend our sincerest sympathy.