

V.F. Biography.

**Dental Library
University of Pittsburgh**

Dr. J. Menzies Campbell

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Dr. J. Menzies Campbell

fewer
CONTINUED ill health has compelled Dr. J. Menzies Campbell to discontinue practice and seek retirement on the basis of semi-invalidism. This entails removal from 14 Buckingham Terrace, where he has practised for so long, to more restful quarters where there are ~~no~~ stairs to climb. The news will bring regret to the hearts of his readers and acquaintances the world over, who for over forty years have received pleasure and profit from his publications, particularly in the field of dental history.

He is one of those rare individuals who recognizes the value of the record of the joys, sorrows, failures and achievements of yesteryear, and who realizes that "the past has made the present." He has not been satisfied to occupy himself exclusively with the present and to live in a "two dimensional world" without depth or background, nor to use as his only frame of reference the passing ephemeral scene, although this illiberal practice has been widely accepted by many "educated" people.

On every hand the wail goes up that Dentistry must give more attention to the "humanities" if it is to escape from being engulfed in "psychopathic materialism". The professional ship, we are told, is in imminent danger of foundering, having been staved upon the humanistic rocks, unless it is immediately caulked with a ha'penny's worth of cultural tar. Sad to relate, there is some rational ground for such fear. Fundamentally culture is of the heart and spirit. It cannot be bought for a price in the market place, nor even in Universities, where, too often a false brand is offered for sale. To the truly educated, culture is the very essence of life itself, and of such is Menzies Campbell. His efforts on behalf of the profession shine before us like a beacon in the darkness of night, and we appreciate him for what he *is* as well as for what he *knows*.

The following tribute was originally written by Dr. Smithurst for an overseas publication. Like Dr. Campbell, he is a graduate of both a British and a Canadian College, and Oral Health has plea-

sure in publishing his well deserved tribute to one who has worked so faithfully and accomplished so much for Dentistry.

An Appreciation

THOSE of us who left our native land to go to distant parts of the British Commonwealth appreciate to the fullest that indefinable quality known as *tradition*. This, in turn, is founded upon the recognition of the efforts of men who have gone before us and through their practical and published works have left us, their heirs, that which we call history. All of us must one day pass from the scene of our labours, leaving problems to be solved by younger men, to whom the future belongs. The trust thus reposed in them will be either honoured or dishonoured in accordance with their knowledge and depth of human understanding. We must never forget those men of high ideals and good intention who worked tirelessly and often against great odds to gain for Dentistry its present status and esteem.

The writer wishes to express his appreciation of the work and research of Dr. J. Menzies Campbell of Glasgow, a busy dental practitioner who for many years has enriched the dental literature of Britain, Canada and the United States. Some of his publications required literally years of research and preparation, as history is of all fields the most exacting in which to write. We in the new world are particularly appreciative of the accurate historical information he has given us in his fine publication "A Dental Bibliography, British and American, 1682-1880." This book has become a standard work of reference and received many favourable reviews, including that of Dr. Curt Proskauer, the eminent dental historian.

When an individual dedicates his life to the single and undivided pursuit of scholarship and achieves high attainment he merits our praise, but when these heights are attained by a busy dentist, as they have been by Menzies Campbell, while at the same time discharging all his obligation to his patients, his profession, his family and society at large, it stirs our deepest admiration. Unfortunately in his case, as in so many others, our praise and encouragement has been too sparingly and too infrequently given. It is interesting to note how his early hobby of collecting rare dental books, instruments, and prints, has led eventually to his very valuable contribution to dental history.

Just to enter his surgery with its distinctive, yet harmonizing ceiling, walls and furnishings and its tastefully monogrammed linen in matching shade, was an unforgettable experience, betokening the soul of the artist who worked and dwelt there. The view from his

operating chair, through a picture window, into a rose garden with its bowers of roses, must have been a source of joy to generations of patients.

In recognition of his accomplishments his name was proposed to his Alma Mater, the University of Toronto, as a worthy recipient of the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. (He was the first British Graduate from a Canadian Dental College.) The Senate found him worthy and invited him to attend the Convocation in June, 1952 for the conferring of the degree. Unfortunately his health was such that he was unable to travel, and, since a Senate regulation made it mandatory for him to be present in person, the degree could not be conferred. It is most regrettable that failing health prevented him from receiving this crowning recognition of his achievements. Nevertheless, he has been weighed and found deserving by his confreres, which should be a source of pride and satisfaction to him, and we share his keen disappointment with him. Our thoughts and good wishes go with them into their new home. May he find rest and sweet contentment there for many years to come, and renewed strength to continue his mission.

R. SMITHURST, D.D.S., (Toronto), L.D.S., (R.C.S. Eng.)
2459 Kingsway,
Vancouver, B.C.

Retirement of Dr. E. A. Grant

ON the retirement of Dr. E. A. Grant from the position of Director of Dental Services for the City of Toronto on July 31, 1953, the municipality lost a conscientious and valuable administrator. Dr. Grant placed his profession foremost in his thoughts and succeeded in making his Division in the Department of Health second to none. He graduated in 1906 from the University of Toronto, and during the years before taking office with the City of Toronto he lectured at both the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry. Together with Dr. Harry S. Thompson and in cooperation with the faculty of Dentistry he was instrumental in starting the Course in Dental Public Health in the School of Hygiene, University of Toronto, and was for some years Associate Professor in Dental Public Health. He rose to the office of President of the Academy of Dentistry, Toronto in 1933-34, and served on the Committee of the Ontario Dental Association, becoming President in 1942-43. On August 3, 1947 he was honoured by the American College of Dentists by being elected a Fellow for the valuable services he had rendered to his chosen profession. Dr. Grant had a desirable capacity for making friends despite his modest and retiring nature.

A. D. A. Mason