

Dr. J. Menzies Campbell

Recent correspondence from Scotland has brought us the regrettable news that Dr. J. Menzies Campbell has retired from practice and is leaving 14 Buckingham Terrace, because of continued ill-health and the recent illness of Mrs. Campbell. The news that they are leaving their old home will bring a sense of nostalgia to all those Canadians who have had the privilege of visiting there, and receiving warm hospitality. It will, however, always be a great pleasure for them to welcome Overseas visitors at their new home, 70 Great George Street, Glasgow, W.2.

Lack of space precludes full elaboration of his contributions to Dentistry in the past forty years, but the highlights well deserve to be noted. He was born on June 9th, 1887, and was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh (founded 1741), which had the unique distinction of having had five of its former pupils as members of the British Cabinet during the First World War. He received his Licentiate in Dental Surgery from the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1911, and the following year received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (cum laude) from the University of Toronto, being the first British Graduate from a Canadian Dental College. In 1918 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, which at that time had only two dental Fellows. During the First World War he was Honorary Dental Surgeon to Woodside and Springburn Red Cross Hospitals, both of which were scheduled first line.

He delivered the first radio talk in Britain on Oral Hygiene on April 13th, 1923; and, from 1926 to 1939, innumerable talks on the same subject, to lay audiences under the auspices of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. In 1929 he published "Those Teeth of



Yours: A Popular Guide to Better Teeth," which was followed two years later by a revised and enlarged edition. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (London); and a Member of the Council (1931-1934), and a Vice-President (1950-1953) of its section on Odontology. He was President of the West of Scotland Branch of the British Dental Association (1929-1938); and was President of the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland (1939-1945.) He is a founder-member of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine and a Member of Council (1950-1953), and is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. He is an Honorary Member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and of La Société Française de l'Histoire de l'Art Dentaire. In May 1950 he delivered by invitation at Edinburgh University the first lecture devoted exclusively to the History of Dentistry at any Scottish University.

For many years he has served as Empire Correspondent for the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association and as British Correspondent for Dental Items of Interest. He also compiled and

38/5

published (London, 1949) "A Dental Bibliography, British and American, 1682-1880." This fine work was meticulously chronicled, and has received international acclaim. In addition he has contributed almost a hundred manuscripts to dental literature, most of them historical, and all of them impeccable in style and bearing the Menzies Campbell hallmark of veracity. Besides his contributions to dental history, he has for many years been an assiduous collector of (pre-1850) dental books, instruments, prints, advertisements, etc. His invaluable collection contains many irreplaceable items which include (with Congress certificate protecting the Title) the original manuscript of Eleazer Gidney's book, "A Treatise on the Structure, Diseases and Management of the Human Teeth," published in 1824, and also Gidney's certificate of membership of the American Society of Dental Surgeons, signed by Chapin A. Harris and dated September 28th, 1840.

When the National Health Service was inaugurated in Britain, he straightaway rejected it on principle and resolutely remained outside the scheme, and wrote to his patients as follows:

14 Buckingham Terrace,
Glasgow, W.2, July 5, 1948

To My Patients:

In order to clarify my position with my patients, I should like to state that I am not participating in the new National Health Service.

Instead, I shall continue to conduct my Dental practice entirely on a personal contract basis, thus maintaining the pleasant professional relationships, which have, hitherto, existed between my patients and me.

I am, fundamentally, opposed to being compelled to submit the details of treatment, which I may recommend (and which my patients may desire), to any State-appointed board for approval or rejection: a procedure necessarily entailing considerable irritating delays.

Yours faithfully,
J. Menzies Campbell.

In recognition of outstanding service

to his profession, his Toronto colleagues recently proposed his name as a worthy recipient of the degree of Doctor of Laws (*honouris causa*.) The matter was duly considered and approved by the Senate of the University of Toronto, and Dr. Menzies Campbell was invited to accept this honour at the June Convocation in 1952, but unfortunately it was not to be. **To receive the degree it was necessary for him to come to Toronto to have it conferred**, but his health was such that it was impossible for him to travel. Like Tantalus of old, the proffered fruit receded as he sought to embrace it, and the reviving waters withdrew as he sought to drink. The degree could not be conferred.

His Toronto confrères share with him the keen disappointment resulting from this denouement and regret that it should have happened. Some comfort may be derived from the fact that he has been weighed in the balance by his peers and found worthy, although there is chagrin that the proffered degree could not become a "*fait accompli*."

Dr. and Mrs. Menzies Campbell take with them from their old home the heartfelt good wishes of their Canadian friends, and the hope that retirement may bring them both health and comfort. Eventide, too, brings gifts with gentle hands—and may it bring to them the glory of the sunset, the quiet of the evening and the serenity and peace of the evening star. Few men are by intellect and background as well fitted as he is to "Sit by the fire and lay hold on the poles of the earth." Freed from the drudgery of practice, may his early dental collections prosper and may we still derive pleasure from an even fuller flowering of his mind!

We wish to thank Dr. Menzies Campbell for his services to our Journal, and hope that he may continue to act in the same capacity for many years to come.

J. H. Johnson,
230 College Street, Toronto, Ont.