

## OBITUARY

### JOHN MIDDLEMASS HUNT.

THE death on the 25th October at his residence at Caldby, Cheshire, of John Middlemass Hunt removes one of the pioneers of Laryngo-Otology in the North of England.

Hunt was born in Perth, Scotland, nearly seventy-five years ago, of a Highland mother and a Lowland father, to whom he probably owed that fortunate combination, which was so attractive in him, of the vivacity and imagination of the Celt with the stability of character and strong common sense of the Lowland Scot.

He received his early education at the Perth Academy and then proceeded to Glasgow University where, after first obtaining a degree in Arts, he took, in 1881, the M.B., C.M. with commendation.

Soon after qualifying he made a voyage to Australia as surgeon on an emigrant sailing ship, and remained for some months in that country, where at one time he had an idea of settling. He returned, however, to this country and engaged in general practice at first in Carlisle and, later, in Liverpool. About the year 1886 he went to Vienna, where he spent a year studying Otology under Gruber, and Laryngology in the University Clinic. In Vienna he also met his future wife, an Austrian lady, whom he married after he had become established in special practice in Liverpool. The marriage was a most happy one, and to his widow we offer our sincerest sympathy in her bereavement.

After his return to Liverpool, well equipped, as comparatively few were in those days, as a Throat and Ear Specialist, he soon acquired a large consulting practice, and in 1893 was appointed Honorary Laryngologist and Aurist to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, the first appointment of the kind at that Hospital, which he held until 1913, a year before his retirement from practice. In 1904 he became the first Honorary Lecturer in Laryngology in the University of Liverpool, an office which he held until 1914. He was also for many years Honorary Surgeon for Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat to the Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey where, as at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, he founded the Throat and Ear Clinic.

Hunt frequently attended and took an active interest in the meetings of both the Laryngological Society of London and the British Laryngological Association, of which he was the first provincial member to occupy the Presidential Chair. He was President also of the Section of Laryngology and Otology at the Annual Meeting (in 1912) in Liverpool of the British Medical Association.

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In 1914, at the comparatively early age of fifty-six, he retired from practice, but as a member of the R.A.M.C. Territorial organisation, he was called up for service on the outbreak of the Great War, and appointed Registrar at the Fazakerley Base Hospital. He was later in command of this Hospital for a time, and towards the end of the War was appointed in command of the Military Heart Hospital at Whittingham with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. This war work, often of an exacting and responsible nature, he carried out with conspicuous ability and success.

For the last ten years of his life he did valuable work as Honorary Dean of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in which he took an active interest.

Hunt made a number of contributions to the literature of Laryngology and Otology, on such subjects as Lupus of the Nose and Throat, the treatment of Laryngeal Phthisis and affections of the singing voice. He was also the author of a very interesting and able paper on "Three British Aurists, an appreciation of Wilde, Toynbee and Hinton," much of which is embodied in the chapter on the history of Otology in Great Britain, which he contributed to Politzer's *Geschichte der Ohrenheilkunde*.

On the whole his interests were centred more in the medical than in the surgical side of his work, and he was perhaps, by temperament, less inclined than most of his contemporaries to follow up the newer surgical developments characteristic of the period in which he practised. His large knowledge of the subject, however, combined with a sensitive, alert, and unusually shrewd intelligence rendered him an exceptionally able diagnostician, and few could give an equally sound opinion on an obscure case of laryngeal disease.

He had a wide and intimate knowledge of literature and music and was for many years a member of the Committee of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society to which his strong critical sense was a valuable asset.

To the writer, who had for seven years the privilege of close association with him in practice, Hunt was not only an inspiring teacher and an unselfish and loyal colleague, but also the best of friends. He had, indeed, a genius for friendship and, although it is long since he was actively in touch with Laryngology, there are still not a few of the older members of the specialty, both in this country and abroad, who will recall his kindly and attractive personality and regret his passing.

THOMAS GUTHRIE.



*Photo by]*

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**JOHN MIDDLEMASS HUNT**



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ATWOOD THORNE, M.B., V.D., HON. COL., R.A.M.C.(T).

SENIOR members of the specialty will be grieved to hear that they will not see their cheery old friend Atwood Thorne again; he passed over at his home at Caerleon, Monmouthshire, on 6th October. Some of us remember him as one of the surgeons at the old London Throat Hospital, where he proved to be the best of colleagues, keen and arduous at his work in spite of fully adequate financial resources, and always ready to go out of his way to be helpful and accommodating, winning to an unusual degree the regard and affection of the staff.

He was elected President of the old British L.R.O. Association, and subsequently Honorary Secretary of the Laryngological Section and Member of Council of the Royal Society of Medicine, and Vice-President at the Birmingham Meeting of the British Medical Association, 1911.

His interests ranged far outside those of our specialty, and his jovial, generous personality marked him as one of the public men of our profession, and it is no surprise to learn from his record that he acted both as Treasurer and President of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association.

Some of us will always remember him as one of the keenest of the Volunteer and Territorial Medical Officers. He served with distinction as Medical Officer to the C.I.V. throughout the South African War; subsequently, as a Territorial Colonel, he organised and commanded the 4th General Hospital. Unfortunately the opening of the Great War found him in ill-health, and he had to relinquish his command, but later on did invaluable work in training sanitary companies for the front, a piece of service in which his South African experience enabled him to impress his pupils with the true scope and limitations of sanitary duties in the field.

For a considerable period after the War he was actively engaged on pension duties. Some of us have to thank Atwood Thorne, acting as presiding officer on Special Boards, for the intelligent appreciation with which our reports on ear and throat pension cases were received.

Finally, he spent several happy years in retirement, writing books on ceramics, and assisting in the excavation of the Roman station of Caerleon, much of which lies within his demesne there.

So ends the valuable career of a very happy, contented man, furnished with a sufficiency of worldly goods, but always fully engaged either upon his surgical work, or upon public medical duties, both civil and military; consequently always cheerful, hospitable, and popular. May he rest in peace!

E. B. WAGGETT.