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SIR WILLIAM TAYLOR

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THE sudden death, January 30, 1933, of Sir William Taylor of Dublin, an honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, came as a great shock to his many friends over the world.

Sir William was born in County Donegal, September 21, 1871, and received his early education at The Strabane Academy. His later academic distinctions and his long service at the Meath Hospital have been recorded in the *Lancet*, as follows:

"Sir William Taylor, in the medical schools of the Irish Royal Colleges and the University of Dublin proved himself a distinguished student by securing the gold medal of operative surgery and the Mayne scholarship. From the University of Dublin he received the M.B. degree in 1901, having previously secured the F.R.C.S., Ireland. He was appointed assistant surgeon to the Meath Hospital in 1898 and as full surgeon in 1900. He was consulting surgeon to this hospital at the time of his death, so that he had given it life-long service."

Many honors were accorded Sir William in his own country, and last year, 1933, he was to serve as president of the surgical section of the British Medical Association which met in Dublin. He was elected to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and in 1914 was vice-president and president in 1916. On the outbreak of the war he was accorded the rank of colonel, Royal Army Medical Corps. He was one of the surgeons to the Dublin Castle Red Cross Hospital, and at the request of the War Office he organized a hospital in France, selecting the staff from men too old for rigorous service. During the war he was indefatigable, and his energy and skill while working with the "83 (Dublin) General Hospital" at Boulogne was recognized with the C.B. in 1917 and the K.B.E. in 1918.

In 1922, Sir William became Regius Professor of Surgery at Dublin University, and in 1923 surgeon to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. He was president of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland in 1924-1925 and was president of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland in 1927. In addition to his posts at the Meath Hospital and at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, he was consulting surgeon to the Coombe Lying-in Hospital, the Stevens Hospital, and the Dental Hospital of Ireland. As was said in the *British Medical Journal*, "Few

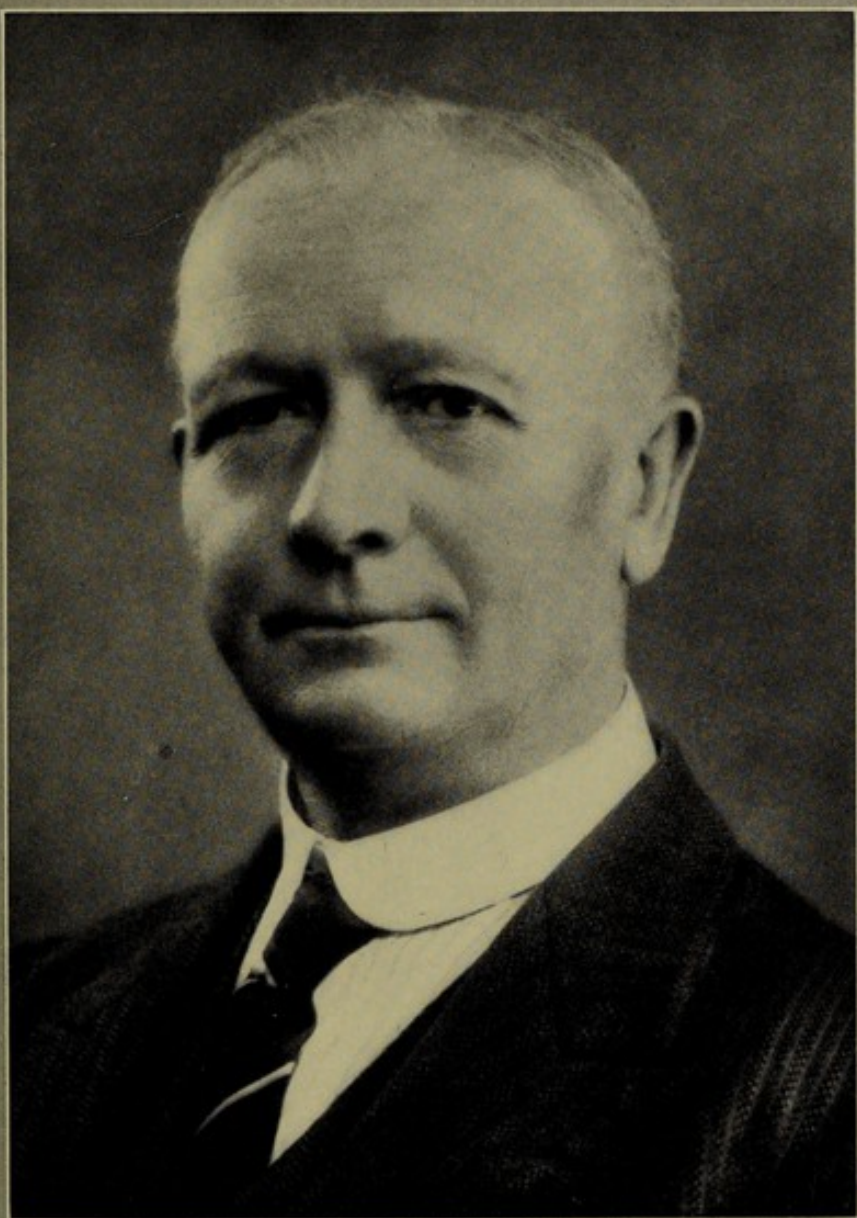
men can have combined so many important posts or acquitted themselves in their multifarious obligations with greater ability."

The papers which he presented before various meetings in North America, and his contributions to medical and surgical literature were obviously based on large experience, and this, with his sound common sense, gave great weight to his opinions in many fields of clinical surgery. Those who have been privileged, as I have been, to visit his surgical wards at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and other hospitals of Dublin, will recall the wide range of his surgical knowledge, his technical skill, his directness, and his forceful teaching. These qualities in a man of his engaging personality made such visits never to be forgotten.

William J. Mayo, in speaking of a visit to Dublin in 1923, wrote of Sir William as "a gifted teacher and surgeon." Dr. Mayo continued, "I have heard him give a graphic description of infantile intussusception, stressing the sudden crying out of the child, the pallor, the vomiting and the explosive movements from the bowels. In none of his cases has he had recurrence after operative reduction. In performing splenectomy in cases of anæmia he immediately transfuses the free blood in the spleen to the patient. He has had noteworthy success in handling cases of acute obstruction of the bowel, using a high enterostomy, with two tubes, for the purpose of emptying the toxic contents of the bowel, and of nourishing the patient."

Honors came to Sir William not only at home, but abroad and it was on the occasion of his first visit to this continent that he was made an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the meeting in Montreal in 1920 and he gave the Fellowship Address that year. It was at this time that Sir William, Sir Berkeley Moynihan, and Mr. A. Carless, representing the Consulting Surgeons of the British Armies in the World War, presented the Great Mace to the American College of Surgeons.

Sir William was elected an Honorary Member of the American Surgical Association in 1924, and in 1927 the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by McGill University. He had a real admiration for American and Canadian medical schools and teaching and the affection in which he was held by the surgeons of these countries was fully reciprocated. His great personal charm, vivacity, wit, friendliness, and exuberant good health made him always welcomed as a visitor in America by his many friends in and out of the medical profession. Those who had the privilege of knowing Sir William Taylor can understand the tribute of a colleague who wrote of him: "Honest in his work, honest in his dealings with all men, and fearlessly faithful to his convictions, his passing is a tragic loss to his profession and to his country."



William Taylor





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