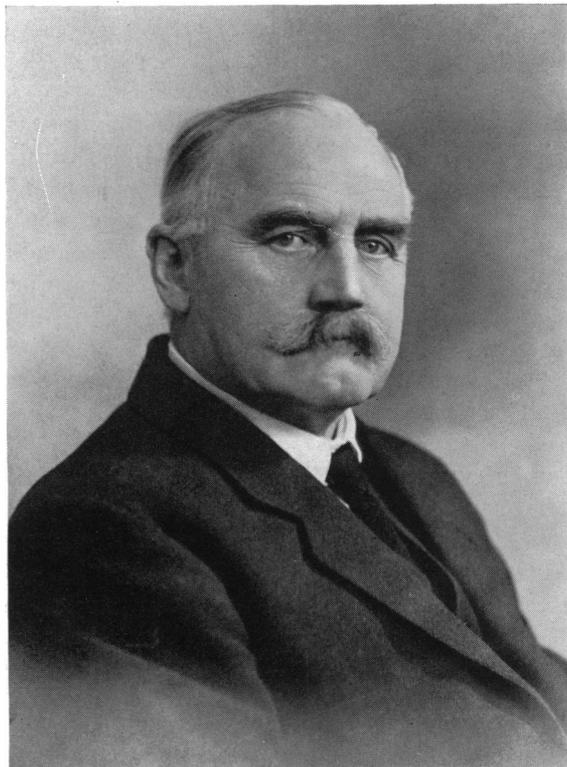


## SIR THOMAS MYLES

1857-1937

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IN THE death of Sir Thomas Myles, an honorary fellow of the American Surgical Association, Ireland has lost one of its most outstanding surgeons. Sir Thomas was well known to many of the members of the American Surgical Association, since he had visited in this country on a number of occa-



SIR THOMAS MYLES, M.D.

sions, and had made important contributions to the scientific sessions of the Association. Those who had the opportunity of visiting him in Dublin and attending his surgical clinics will always remember him as a great surgeon and teacher and will recall his inspiring personality.

Sir Thomas, son of John Myles of Limerick, was born April 20, 1857. He studied medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, where he received his M.B. and B.Ch. in 1881 and in 1889 his M.D. He served as house surgeon at Steevens Hospital and, in 1885, became a Fellow of the Royal Chirurgical Society of Ireland and was appointed secretary of the Dublin Hospitals Commission. In 1889, he was appointed professor of pathology at the Royal

College of Surgeons of which he was President from 1900 to 1902. For many years he was visiting surgeon to Jervis Street Hospital and later to Richmond Hospital, where the remainder of his active professional life was spent. In 1900, he was made honorary burgess of his native city of Limerick and received the honor of knighthood in 1902. He represented his college on the General Medical Council from 1905 to 1911 and from 1933 until the time of his death. In 1910, he was appointed honorary surgeon in Ireland to King George V, and during the World War, Sir Thomas served as a consulting surgeon to the forces in Ireland. He was elected to honorary membership in the American Surgical Association in 1907. He passed away at his home in Leeson Park, Dublin, July 14, 1937.

The eulogies appearing in the medical journals of Great Britain and Ireland depict Sir Thomas as a man of rare personal charm, equanimity and high scholarly attainments. Sir Thomas possessed a profound knowledge of the surgery of his time and his originality was displayed in many of the contributions by which he advanced surgical progress. He was a man of magnificent physique who was seen by one writer as one who had discovered the secret of perpetual youth. He was most tolerant of the opinions of others and, as another writer has expressed it, "I never saw him out of temper," and "he never forgot a friendly act nor desired to remember an unfriendly one."

I take the liberty of quoting in part a tribute to Sir Thomas from his lifelong friend, Mr. A. B. Mitchell, of Belfast: "Sir Thomas Myles was an outstanding personality in any company. His conversation was always fascinating because of the extraordinary range and accuracy of his knowledge and the simplicity and forcefulness with which he expressed himself. His acquaintance with history was profound. He was one of our greatest Shakespearean scholars, and constantly quoted his favourite author with a fervour and suitability that was most impressive. He was endowed with a colossal memory. He was a voracious reader. A book once read was mastered; he could refer to its individual characters years afterwards as if he had lived and moved amongst them. His wonderful capacity as a teacher of medicine and surgery will never be forgotten till his last pupil has gone to join him in the 'Everlasting Land.' It is not too much to say that one's first visit to 'Tom Myles' Grind' was a revelation. The lucidity, brevity, accuracy, and virility of his descriptions of disease were altogether unique. He prepared more than 1,000 young men for various medical degrees, and for entrance examinations for the Army, Navy, and Indian Medical Services. His pupils have attained the foremost positions in every part of the British Empire. Wherever they went they carried with them not only profound admiration but a deep affection for their great teacher. It is impossible to overestimate his influence upon the lives and character of those who came under his magnetic personality."

The American Surgical Association honors the memory of Sir Thomas Myles and is honored to have on its roster the name of this distinguished surgeon of Ireland.

DONALD C. BALFOUR.