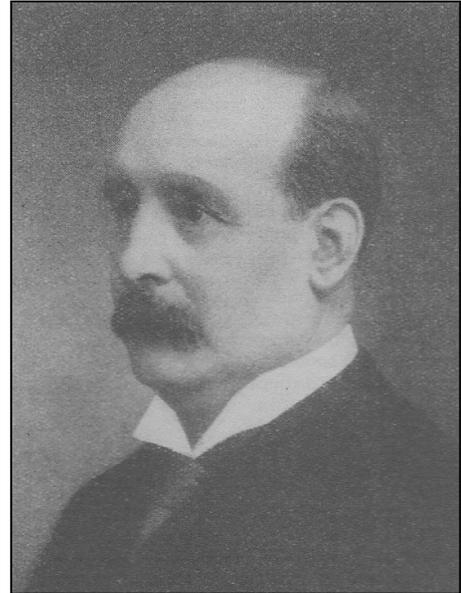


**PROFESSOR BILTON POLLARD (1855-1931). M.D., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). - Emeritus
Professor of Clinical Surgery, University College, London.**

"Bilton Pollard was the last survivor of four men who, in the early years of this century, gave a special quality to the surgery school of University College Hospital. In this very distinguished group Pollard easily held his own as an influence and a force."

British Medical Journal (1931).

Bilton Pollard (1855-1931) [Epsom College 1870-1874. prefect. Captain of Rugby XV. Cricket XI. Carr Exhibition. Wakley and Watts Science Prizes] was the son of Dr Tempest Pollard of Rastrick, Yorkshire, and brother of Edwin Purslove Pollard [Epsom College 1862-1864]. He won an Entrance Scholarship to University College Hospital, where he gained First Class Honours in both the intermediate and final examinations for the M.B. degree of London University. Following qualification, he served as a Demonstrator of Anatomy at University College, before moving to Manchester as Resident Surgical Officer at the Royal Infirmary. Returning to University College Hospital, he was appointed surgical registrar before his appointment as Surgeon to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Bethnal Green (1885-1887). In 1887 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon at University College Hospital, was promoted to full surgeon in 1894, and two years later became Professor of Clinical Surgery at University College. In 1914, he retired from the active staff and was elected Consulting surgeon and Emeritus Professor. Apart from his work at University College Hospital, Bilton Pollard acted as an examiner in surgery in the Universities of Oxford and Manchester; a Member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons, and from 1910-1918 a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons.



In his obituary it was written that "He was a complete practical surgeon, armed in every branch of the art, and the confident master of his equipment....he was one of the most deliberate operators of his generation. He has been known, at the end of an operation, when all his assistants were sinking with fatigue, to take down an elaborately completed line of sutures because, after long and placid contemplation, it was found not to reach his standard of the exact and safe....As a teacher he took great pains, never allowing himself to be hurried, and was always willing, and indeed anxious, to help students....Pollard's whole career was an exemplary demonstration of the familiar truth that for effectiveness in even so technical an art as surgery character can contribute as much as, if not more than, aptitude....This was no mere inertia, but an inward calm in which the perplexities of diagnosis were surprisingly often resolved, and which made him as an operator extraordinarily independent of his audience, and unruffled by complications. His serene temperament was undoubtedly the very substance of his being, and in the last analysis the quality that put him among the very small band of the soundest, the most uniformly successful, and, above all, the most trusted surgeons of his time." Whilst in active work he had brass casts made of his hands so that he could secure proper surgical gloves which were at that time just coming into general use.