

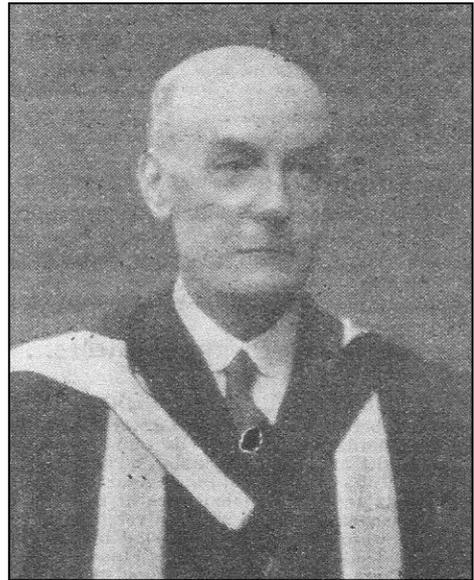
## PROFESSOR EDWARD OCTAVIUS CROFT (1858-1929).

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.), M.D. (Durham).

*“He served in the old Leeds Rifles for many years as medical officer, and made a regular appearance at the annual camp, where he was often the life and soul of the mess and a respected favourite with all.”*

*British Medical Journal (1929)*

Edward Octavius Croft (1858-1929) [Epsom College 1868-1877. Carr Exhibition] was the eighth son of Dr Charles Ilderton Croft, surgeon of the City of London, and brother of George Crafter Croft, J.P. [Epsom College 1859-1860]. At Epsom College he won a scholarship to University College Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S. (Eng.) in 1883, and obtaining the M.D. at Durham in 1898. Following qualification he was appointed Resident Obstetrical Officer and Demonstrator of Obstetrics at University College Hospital, and then, in 1885, he moved to Leeds where he was Resident Medical Officer at the General Lying-in Hospital. Up to that time there was no special department for the diseases of women in Leeds, but with the development of surgery and the increase in numbers of patients it soon became necessary to build a suitable department that would contain both an out-patient as well as in-patient facilities. At that particular time students had to rely on the Poor Law officers and private practitioners for their experience in midwifery, and one of the great requirements which the hospital board was anxious to secure was the establishment of an extern department for attending women in confinement in their own homes. Edward Croft was selected to oversee this and the new department of obstetrics at Leeds was launched by him. With the development of a new Maternity Hospital, the extern department of the Infirmary passed to this new institution and “the germ of Edward Croft’s early work blossomed in a way it could not have done had it not been well and wisely planted and nursed during its earlier years.”



Shortly after leaving Leeds Infirmary, Edward Croft was appointed to the honorary staff of the Women and Children’s Hospital, holding this position from 1890 until 1929. “When the hospital was rebuilt he was concerned from the start with the work, watched with care every suggested improvement, and helped by his knowledge and acumen the completion of a building which is admirable in all respects.” From his earlier position as Demonstrator and Lecturer in Obstetrics he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Leeds. He was a Fellow of the Obstetric Society of London; Vice-President of the North of England Obstetric and Gynaecology Society and President of the Leeds and West Riding Medico-Chirurgical Society. Outside his hospital work he served as medical officer in the Leeds Rifles, and devoted his leisure time to natural history.