

HENRY HERBERT FOLKER (1864-1925). O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.).

Henry Herbert Folker (1864-1925) [Epsom College 1877-1881] was the son of Dr W. H. Folker of Hanley, Staffordshire, and brother of Percy Newton Folker [Epsom College 1881-1882]. He received his medical training at Charing Cross Hospital, and was appointed Honorary Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and the North Staffordshire Blind and Deaf Asylum. In due course he was elected Chairman of the North Staffordshire Division of the British Medical Association. He served as a Captain in the North Staffordshire Regiment from 1899 to 1902, and as a Captain in the R.A.M.C. (1915-1917), at the Northern Command Headquarters at York. He was then appointed Deputy Commissioner of Medical Services at the Ministry of Pensions from 1917 to 1921 and Staffordshire County Director of the Red Cross. In recognition of these services he was awarded the O.B.E in 1920. In 1910, Herbert Folker brought before a medical meeting "the matter of children suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum becoming blind owing to the lack of early attention. His proposal for the compulsory notification of the disease was eventually adopted across the country". This led to a dramatic drop in the incidence of blindness from the disease. He was one of the first doctors to own a motor car and possessed an early electric model.

