

**SIR HENRY MORRIS (1844-1926). M.A., M.B. (Lond.), L.R.C.P., P.R.C.S. (Eng.), Hon. F.R.C.S.I. -
The First Old Epsomian President of the Royal College of Surgeons.**

Henry Morris (1844-1926) [Epsom College 1855-1859], the son of William Morris, a surgeon at Petworth, Sussex, and brother of William James Morris [Epsom College 1861-1862] entered Epsom College in 1855, one of the first one hundred boys to be admitted under the first headmaster, the Rev. Dr. Robinson Thornton, M.A., D.D. He left Epsom in 1859 for University College, London, where he graduated B.A. in 1863 with philosophy as his special subject. He proceeded M.A. in 1870. From University College he entered Guy's Hospital where, after graduating M.B., he became successively a house surgeon and then Resident Medical Officer. In 1870 he was appointed Surgical Registrar at the Middlesex Hospital; in 1871, Assistant Surgeon and Surgeon to the Out-Patient Department, and from 1872-1881 Lecturer in Anatomy. In 1879, he was appointed Consulting Surgeon to the hospital, an appointment that he held until 1889. In 1880, he successfully removed a large calculus from an undilated kidney, the first designed operation of its kind to be performed in this country, before the advent of X-Rays and the cystoscope had expanded the methods of diagnosis. The patient made a complete recovery and the fame that this operation brought him resulted in a greatly expanded clinical practice and gave him the opportunity of publishing a number of books on genito-urinary surgery. He was also the first surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital to perform the operations of total colectomy (1877), pylorotomy (1885) and total excision of the larynx (1885). In 1889 he successfully removed a large part of a malignant urinary bladder. Sir Henry Morris was also one of the first surgeons to postulate that cancerous tumours actually started from a matrix of embryonic cells rather than being microbial in origin.



Many of the most important posts in surgery were held by Sir Henry Morris. From 1894-1904 he was a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons; in 1898, Hunterian Professor; in 1903, Bradshaw Lecturer; from 1904-1917, Representative on the General Medical Council and, during 1906-1907 President of the Royal College of Surgeons, as well as President of the Royal Society of Medicine from 1910 until 1912. He was an Examiner in Anatomy at the University of Durham and in Surgery at the University of London. In 1909, as Hunterian Orator of the Royal College of Surgeons he took for the subject of his oration ‘

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opposed by Sir Henry Morris who maintained that such subjects should be taught within the precincts of the Medical School. He contributed £ 1,000 from his own pocket for an Endowment Fund and, by inducing other persons to make contributions, was able to ensure the future of the Medical School. Sir Henry Morris wrote extensively on surgical subjects, his

(1879) being the standard textbook for many years. In 1888 he joined the Council of Epsom College and in 1906 was appointed Treasurer on the resignation of Sir Constantine

Holman. As Chairman of the Works Committee he was able to oversee the erection of the Markham Skerritt Laboratories, the provision of improved heating and hot-water systems, enlargement of the infirmary and provision of a new gymnasium and music block. During his last years he led a lonely life after his wife, a Russian dancer, had predeceased him.