

SIDNEY MAYNARD SMITH (1875-1928). C.B., M.B. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). - Consultant Surgeon to St Mary's Hospital and the Second and Fifth Armies.

"As Consulting Surgeon to the Fifth Army in 1916, he was chiefly responsible for the treatment of the wounded during the great battles of Passchendaele."

Plarr's Lives of the Fellows. Royal College of Surgeons (1928).

Sidney Maynard Smith (1875-1928) [Epsom College 1889-1893. Entrance Scholarship. Ann Hood Exhibition. Hockey XI] was the son of W. H. Smith of the Admiralty. In 1893, he won an entrance scholarship to St Mary's Hospital and after a distinguished student career qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.) in 1898. Shortly after this he was appointed house-surgeon at St Mary's Hospital before serving in the South African War as a civil surgeon with the 3rd Battalion Welsh regiment, winning the Queen's medal and two clasps. On returning to London he passed the F.R.C.S. examination (1902), graduated M.B., B.S. with honours (1905), and was appointed demonstrator of anatomy in St Mary's Hospital Medical School. He won a great reputation as a teacher and, in 1906, was appointed surgeon with charge of out-patients at St Mary's Hospital and assistant surgeon to the Victoria Hospital for Children.

Sidney Maynard Smith had a brilliant record of service during the First World War. In 1914 he was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief to the St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital, and after devoting himself with the greatest energy to its organisation and equipment, proceeded to France with the hospital in 1915, holding the rank of Major in the R.A.M.C. At Etaples, the St John Hospital soon became famous for the outstanding perfection of its organisation, and very many surgical cases were received. The *British Medical Journal* recorded that: "never was Maynard Smith's brilliant genius as an organiser shown to better effect than in the minutely detailed arrangements he made for dealing with the work of the St John Hospital. His skill gained him a great reputation in France, and led to his appointment of consulting surgeon to the Fifth Army in 1916, with the rank of Colonel A.M.A." In his new position he was largely responsible for the surgical arrangements for dealing with the heavy casualties of the prolonged battle of Passchendaele. He also distinguished himself greatly during the battle of St Quentin and the retreat of the Fifth Army. Following this he was appointed consulting surgeon to the Second Army. At his own request Maynard Smith was early permitted to pay visits to the front line, to regimental first aid posts, and to advance and main dressing stations. With this he soon acquired a sound judgement as to what was essential to efficiency in the care, treatment and evacuation of the wounded. As a surgeon he was distinguished by his shrewd judgement and the thoroughness of his work. He was a splendid technician, neat and precise, and all his operations were performed after thoughtful preparation and with the most meticulous attention to details. For his services to the French Army during the fighting around Kemmel he was awarded the *Croix de Guerre*; for his war services he was mentioned in dispatches four times, was created C.B. and a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

After the Great War, Maynard Smith was appointed Consultant Surgeon at St Mary's Hospital (1922), and other appointments held at this time included surgeon to the London Fever Hospital and consulting surgeon to the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, at Ealing. His contributions to medical literature included the section on fractures of the lower limbs on the official medical history of the war. He was a member of the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, and Secretary of the Section of Diseases of Children when the B.M.A. held its annual meeting at Sheffield in 1906. He also obtained distinction as a Freemason, being a Past Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of England. After the war he wrote the section on *Fractures of the Lower Extremity* in the Official History of the First World War. For some years he was Honorary Secretary of the Old Epsomian Club. As his war work demonstrated, Maynard Smith had a genius for organisation and, in 1927 he was largely responsible for planning the new operating theatre block at St Mary's Hospital. Unfortunately he passed away before its completion.