

THE F.R.C.S.

A CENTENARY CELEBRATION

A distinguished company, which included the Princess Royal, Ambassadors of the Allied nations, members of the Government, and High Commissioners of the Dominions and India, assembled in the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn on July 21 to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the F.R.C.S., at a reception given by the President and Council of the College. This coveted surgical diploma was instituted by Royal Charter 100 years ago, owing mainly to the efforts of Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, then Vice-President of the College. It is pleasing to record that at the ceremony last week among those present was Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, the fourth holder of the baronetcy created in 1834. Brodie, who became President of the Royal Society as well as of the College of Surgeons, described the object of the Fellowship in these words: "To insure the introduction into the profession of a number of young men who may be qualified to maintain its scientific character, and will be fully equal to its higher duties as hospital surgeons, teachers, and improvers of physiological, pathological, and surgical science afterwards."

A Message from the King

Sir ALFRED WEBB-JOHNSON read aloud the following message from the King: "As Visitor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England I wish to congratulate the President, Vice-Presidents, Council, and Fellows of the College on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the Fellowship. It has given me great satisfaction to learn that the Council has decided to mark it by conferring the Honorary Fellowship on several distinguished surgeons from the Dominions and Allied countries. I send my best wishes for the continued prosperity of the College, and trust that the plans for the restoration of its unique museum will be successfully carried out as soon as possible after the war." In his reply the President stated: "Your Majesty's interest and good wishes will be a great encouragement to all the Fellows of the College in the heavy tasks which lie before them. They wish to assure your Majesty that they will be untiring in their efforts to restore their museum, towards which they have received most generous promises of help from all parts of the Empire."

The Presidential Address

Beginning his address by welcoming the Princess Royal and other distinguished guests, the President went on to say that even in the crisis of battle it was well to pause and dwell for a moment on our splendid heritage: "The past is always with us, never to be forgotten; and in the continual remembrance of a glorious past we find our noblest inspirations." The amenities of the College, he observed, had been destroyed by the enemy. They were therefore deeply grateful to the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn for putting their hall at their disposal that evening. There was much in common between the College and the Inn. Their Tudor gateway bore the arms of Henry VIII; the College had its Holbein masterpiece to remind them that Henry VIII gave them authority to take a historic step in their corporate progress. Inigo Jones had designed the chapel of the Inn and also the College's Theatre of Anatomy, now destroyed. A hundred years ago the Hall had been built and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons instituted. G. F. Watts had painted the portrait of Brodie and also the fresco adorning the Hall.

Makers of Surgical History

"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported." Of such were John of Arderne and Thomas Morstede. Of such were Wiseman and Vicary; Ranby and Cheselden. Of such were Pott, Abernethy, Astley Cooper, Charles Bell, Hilton, Paget, and others. Of such, towering above all, were John Hunter, the founder of scientific surgery, and the immortal Lister. Of such also was Benjamin Collins Brodie, who founded the Fellowship of our College." After this gracious tribute to makers of surgical history Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson concluded his notable address by stating that the College wished to mark the occasion by

the award of some Honorary Fellowships, the numbers of which on the Roll at one time must not exceed 50. They had chosen for distinction in this way several surgeons from the Dominions and Allied countries. They had not forgotten those in the power of the enemy, but for the present their names must be withheld. "In accordance with precedent we have chosen some who are not practising surgeons, one of them being Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, in recognition of her services to humanity. It is with special pride that we add to our Roll the name of our great Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Winston Spencer-Churchill. I venture to assert that when the history of our times comes to be written Winston Churchill will be judged worthy of the same tribute as that paid to the greatest of our Fellows by the American Ambassador, Mr. Bayard, who, when addressing Lister, said: 'It is not a profession, it is not a nation, it is humanity itself which, with uncovered head, salutes you.'"

The Honorary Fellows

The awards which could be announced were: Sir High Devine, of Melbourne; Sir Thomas Dunhill, Serjeant-Surgeon to the King; Sir Humphry Rolleston, formerly Chairman of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund; Prof. A. T. A. Jurasz, of Poland; the Rt. Hon. Sir Earle Page; Prof. Nikolai N. Burdenko, Chief Surgeon to the Soviet Army; Prof. S. S. Yudin, of Moscow; Col. Elliot C. Cutler, of Harvard University; Prof. W. G. Penfield, of McGill University; Prof. Evarts A. Graham, of St. Louis; Prof. R. B. Osgood, of Harvard; Prof. N. S. Shenstone, of Toronto; Prof. Naguib Mahfouz Pasha, of Cairo; Prof. Innes Wares Brebner, of Witwatersrand University.

Those admitted as Honorary Fellows on July 21 were: Col. J. M. Holst, Consulting Surgeon to the Norwegian Army (presented by Mr. H. S. Souttar, Vice-President of the R.C.S.); Mr. Henry Wade, of Edinburgh (presented by Sir Girling Ball, Vice-President of the R.C.S.); Col. J. A. MacFarlane, Consulting Surgeon to the Canadian Army (presented by Major-Gen. C. Max Page, Member of Council); Prof. H. C. Naffziger, of San Francisco, Chairman of Committee on Neurological Surgery of the National Research Council of America (presented by Surg. Rear-Adml. Cecil Wakeley, Member of Council).

Two Russian Surgeons

It will be remembered (see *Journal* of June 5, p. 701) that under the auspices of the Medical Research Council and the British Council a group of British surgeons have gone to the U.S.S.R. on a joint Anglo-American Surgical Mission. During this visit Surg. Rear-Adml. G. Gordon-Taylor, as Senior Vice-President of the College, has admitted to its Honorary Fellowship the two Russian surgeons, Dr. Nikolai N. Burdenko, Director of the Operative Surgery Institute, Moscow University, and Surgeon-in-Chief to the Red Army, and Dr. Sergei S. Yudin of the Sklifassovski Hospital for Traumatic Diseases, Moscow. In admitting Dr. Burdenko, Admiral Gordon-Taylor said that in the years gone by the Fellowship had been presented three times to Russian surgeons—Victor Pachoutine, Nicolas Weliaminoff, and Vladimir Andrejevic Opel. "We respect you, Academician Burdenko," he continued, "former pupil of the illustrious physiologist, Pavlov; we admire you as a great scientific surgeon and brilliant contributor to the advance of neurological surgery, but we honour you now as Surgeon-in-Chief to the famous Red Army, which has fought with a bravery and distinction that has commanded the wonder and admiration of all."

In conferring the Honorary Fellowship on Prof. Yudin, Admiral Gordon-Taylor said that they honoured him not only as a famous Soviet surgeon but also for what he had done by his publications to ensure that the contributions of Soviet workers towards the advancement of surgery should be known throughout the world. "The orbit of your surgical activity," he added, "has been vast and varied; you have made notable contributions to gastric surgery and have modified its technique; your writings on gastro-duodenal haemorrhage demand the closest attention and are of particular interest to myself, who have worked in the same branch of surgery; the numbers of patients suffering from cataclysmic haemorrhage whose lives have been preserved by your methods and your skill are impressive and convincing."