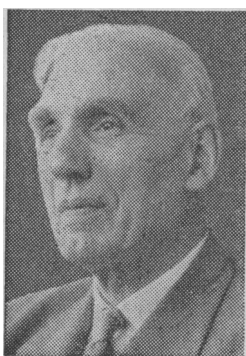


# Obituary Notices

## R. SCOTT STEVENSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.ED.

Mr. R. Scott Stevenson, consultant otolaryngologist and accomplished writer and editor, died in Gibraltar on 22 March. He was 77.

Robert Scott Stevenson was born on 11 June 1889, the eldest son of W. Scott Stevenson, a schoolmaster who became the first head of the Edinburgh College of Agriculture. After attending the Royal High School, Edinburgh, and George Watson's College he received his medical education at



Edinburgh University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1912. A month as locumtenent in general practice at Cowdenbeath in Fife followed, and then he became junior house-surgeon at the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield. This move was in accordance with a friend's advice—which he after-

wards expressed regret at having taken—not to waste his time “bottle-washing round the Royal Infirmary” at Edinburgh, but to go to a busy hospital in the north of England. On completing that appointment he went to Manchester Royal Infirmary, a move that proved much to his liking, and there he became registrar in the aural department under Sir William Milligan. At the same time he entered general practice at Eccles, a suburb of Manchester, restricting his E.N.T. work to Milligan's outpatient clinics. There he continued until 1916, when, despite an incapacitating attack of phlebitis, he obtained a commission in the R.A.M.C. and was appointed specialist otolaryngologist. Demobilized in France with the rank of captain at the end of 1918, he returned to his appointment at Manchester Royal Infirmary and his general practice at Eccles, at the same time putting up his plate as a consultant otolaryngologist on 1 January 1919. In that year he also proceeded M.D.

Still troubled by the phlebitis from time to time, he thought a sedentary occupation would be beneficial, so in 1920 he became subeditor of the *British Medical Journal* under Sir Dawson Williams. Though he remained for two and a half years, the work allotted to him proved not to be congenial, and in 1923 he resigned to enter consultant practice in Harley Street with an appointment at the Metropolitan Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital. His literary inclination meanwhile turned his attention to the *Practitioner*, for which journal he undertook abstracts. Then in 1924 he was appointed its editor, and a few years later brought in Sir Humphry Rolleston, with whom he remained associate editor until 1935. But, as his consulting practice continued to expand, he decided in that year to devote himself wholly to it. Soon after the outbreak of war

in 1939 he again joined the R.A.M.C. to serve as a specialist in otolaryngology, continuing to do so until his demobilization in 1945 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Cordially disliking Government restrictions of any kind, and socialism in particular, Scott Stevenson twice stood for Parliament after the second world war—but on both occasions unsuccessfully. In 1945 he was Liberal National candidate for West Fife, when Mr. W. Gallacher, Communist, was elected, and in 1946 he stood for the Scottish Universities in a by-election, losing to Walter Elliot, Conservative. The National Health Service now loomed ahead, and though he believed that many of its features would be harmful to the practice of medicine he was not active in opposition to it. But when under the new administrative arrangements the Metropolitan Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital was threatened with a transfer to premises that he and his colleagues considered highly unsuitable he campaigned so effectively against the move that the Minister of Health intervened to stop it. This was the first occasion on which the Minister had interfered with the decision of a regional hospital board.

In 1954 Scott Stevenson emigrated to Gibraltar, “not to retire,” as he put it, “but to avoid retiring.” And there he continued in active practice. At the age of 72 he was appointed the first Medical Administrator of the colony, with a medical committee and board of management.

In addition to his consulting practice Scott Stevenson found time to write *Recent Advances in Oto-laryngology*, which went into a second edition (1949), and numerous papers in the medical press. Two volumes of reminiscences—*In a Harley Street Mirror* (1951) and *Goodbye Harley Street* (1954)—recounted many amusing stories of professional life and were aptly illustrated by his own hand. With Douglas Guthrie he wrote *A History of Oto-laryngology* (1949); and a collection of historical essays, *Famous Illnesses in History*, appeared in 1962. Perhaps his most discerning historical work went into *Morrell Mackenzie* (1946), a study of the eminent nineteenth-century otolaryngologist and his treatment of the German Emperor Frederick III. A lover all his life of the drama and the visual arts, his exceptional knowledge of Spanish painting found expression in a book on it completed while he was in Gibraltar, which was favourably received.

For over 50 years a member of the B.M.A., Scott Stevenson served on the Board of Directors of the B.M.J. and then the Journal Committee from 1937 to 1948. In addition, he was a member at various times of the Science Committee and Library Subcommittee and in 1937–42 of the Council. In 1963 he was elected president of the Gibraltar Branch. For many years he was chairman of the medical committee of the Metropolitan Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital, and for nine years until 1954 he was chairman of the council of the National Institute for the Deaf.

He had been president of the section of otolaryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine (1948–9), an honorary fellow of the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otolological Society, an honorary member of the Scottish Otolaryngological Society, and a corresponding member of the Société Française d'Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie.

He married in 1915 Gertrude, eldest daughter of Dr. F. Ferguson Kerr, and they had two daughters.

## D. J. CANNON, M.A., M.D., M.A.O.

Dr. D. J. Cannon, formerly a general surgeon in Co. Kildare, Ireland, died on 12 March at the age of 83.

Dominick John Cannon was born in County Donegal, and was educated at University College, Dublin, and at Vienna, graduating B.A. with first-class honours in 1911 and M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1913 in the National University of Ireland. All his life he was a man whose interests extended over a wide field, and he was early attracted to the study of philosophy and theology. Among his early appointments he served as house-surgeon to the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton, and the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and as assistant medical officer to St. Mary's Infirmary, London. Joining the Royal Army Medical Corps during the first world war, and later transferring to the medical branch of the Royal Air Force, he saw active service in France and Italy.

After demobilization he returned to Dublin, where he became associated with the Coombe Lying-in Hospital and the Temple Street Children's Hospital, and later was appointed chairman of the War Pensions Medical Appeal Tribunal, with which he remained associated for many years in a part-time capacity. He took the L.M. in 1922, and the M.A.O. in 1924. In 1932 he was appointed surgeon to the Kildare County Infirmary and in the following year, in addition, to the Drogheda Memorial Hospital in the same county. Thereafter, until his retirement in 1958, general surgery claimed his chief attention, but he retained his interest in philosophy and other branches of mental activity. In 1934 he was a representative at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association.

As might be expected in one with such a questing mind, he made many contributions to medical literature, which appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the British Empire*, the *Irish Journal of Medical Science* and the *Journal of the Irish Medical Association*, and he was elected a fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland in 1922. The M.D. was conferred on him for published work. Those who knew him are grateful for the memory of one who valued friendship and left no enemies.

He is survived by his widow, a married daughter, and a son who is professor of pharmacology in University College, Dublin. —C. D.