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(*Founded in* 1887 *by* MORRELL MACKENZIE *and* NORRIS WOLFENDEN)

May 1978

Sir Geoffrey Bateman

Retiring Editor

THERE can be few readers of this journal who do not associate it in a very personal way with the name of Sir Geoffrey Bateman—now, alas, retiring after seventeen years as its Editor.

Educated at Epsom College, Sir Geoffrey was President of the Old Epsomian Club in 1964–5; and this has been the pattern of everything he has done, for he has held office—and usually the very highest office—in practically every one of the many bodies which he has served.

These include the Fifth International Congress of Otolaryngology, of which he was Academic Secretary in 1948; the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine, of which he was Honorary Secretary for two years, and President in 1965–6; the British Association of Otolaryngologists, of which he was a founder-member, later becoming Honorary Secretary for five years, and finally President; the Royal College of Surgeons of England on whose Council he served for five years as co-opted member representing Otolaryngology; the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum, of which he was Vice-President in Bristol in 1974; the Army, to which he was Honorary Civilian Consultant in Otolaryngology; the Department of Health and Social Security, to which he was Consultant Adviser in Otolaryngology; and the International Federation of Otolaryngological Societies, on whose International Committee he represented the United Kingdom in Tokyo in 1965, and four years later in Mexico City.

He holds honorary memberships of specialist societies in Australia and the United States, and has travelled extensively throughout Europe as member, honorary secretary, vice-president and (inevitably) president of the Visiting Association of Throat and Ear Surgeons of Great Britain. One of my happiest personal recollections of Sir Geoffrey is that of having watched him, on one of those visits, conducting a Bavarian Band in a Hamburg beer cellar!

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For over a quarter of a century he served on the Consultant Staff of St. Thomas' Hospital in London, and it was there that he pioneered the development of trans-sphenoidal hypophysectomy. For fifteen years before his retirement in 1971 he was a member, and latterly Chairman, of the committee concerned with the building of the new hospital.

A member of its Committee of Management since 1952, Sir Geoffrey became Honorary Treasurer of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund in 1960, and he still holds that office.

This outstanding record of service—to his hospital, to the specialty and to Medicine in general—gained Royal recognition in 1972, when a Knighthood was conferred upon him in the New Year's Honours List.

Sir Geoffrey's long association with the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* began in 1954, when he became a Director; and after two years as Assistant Editor, he became Editor in 1961. Under his sure guidance the Journal has grown into one of the leading international specialist journals in Otolaryngology, with a wide circulation throughout all five Continents.

Innumerable friends and colleagues will be hoping that in his retirement Sir Geoffrey will find more time for golf and fishing, and that he and Lady Bateman will have more time to spend with their fourteen grandchildren; and comfort can be taken in the fact that his retirement is far from complete, for in 1979 he will be Master of the Fifth British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology, to be held in Birmingham.

I am sure that many of our readers will be looking forward to seeing him once again in the Chair; and that all of them will want to wish him well.

JOHN BALLANTYNE

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