

SIR FELIX SEMON, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.P.
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(*Founded in* 1887 *by* MORELL MACKENZIE *and* NORRIS WOLFENDEN)

SIR FELIX SEMON

WITH the death of Semon, the *doyen* of British Laryngology has passed away. Through his energy and the strength of his personality, Semon did more than anyone in his time and generation to promote the advancement and to uphold the prestige of Laryngology as a specialty. When in 1877 he commenced practice in London, Laryngology was more or less in its infancy—to-day he has left it in a well-established and important position. By his writings, his activities, and the honesty of his character, he succeeded in placing the specialty upon an honoured and secure basis. His compeers and his successors alike will acknowledge the fruits of his endeavours and recognise the debt which they owe to his efforts.

Due to his initiative and his insistence, Laryngology was recognised for the first time—only as a sub-section, it is true—at the International Medical Congress held in London in 1881. In 1884, he started the *Centralblatt für Laryngologie*, and mainly as the result of his powers of organisation it became one of the leading Journals of its kind. In 1893, he founded the Laryngological Society of London, now merged in "The Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine."

The numerous and valuable contributions with which he has enriched the literature of the specialty are evidence of his

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scientific acumen, of his powers of observation, and of his faculty of close reasoning.

Many will recall his acts of kindness, and remember with gratitude the encouragement which he gave them. To the younger men in the profession he was always accessible, and his advice and assistance were willingly given. His opinion upon cases shown at the meetings of the Section was constantly sought, and he was as ready to listen to and help the youngest member in the room as he was to discuss a difficult question with his senior colleagues.

Semon had many honours and distinctions bestowed upon him during his active career. But in his years of well-earned leisure, when reflecting upon the past, he probably valued most the affection and esteem which he had inspired in his numerous friends, while the knowledge that his life's work had been largely responsible for the position to which Laryngology had attained must have given him infinite satisfaction.

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