

## Obituary.

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DAVID NEWMAN, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.G.,  
GLASGOW.

THE death of Dr. Newman adds another to the list of losses by death in the profession so numerous in recent weeks. Though he had retired from active practice, Dr. Newman had still maintained close association with the medical life in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. No detailed information as to the manner of his death has yet reached us. Accompanied by Mrs. Newman he had made a trip to Australia, where he had been received with acclamation by the surgical profession, and it was on the return journey, while crossing the Indian Ocean, somewhere south of Freemantle, that he died suddenly on 22nd April. He was buried at sea.

Dr. Newman was the son of Dr. Edward Newman, a fleet surgeon in the Royal Navy, and was born in Partick seventy years ago. He was an Academy boy, and obtained his medical education in the University and in Leipzig, graduating M.B., C.M. in 1878, and M.D. in 1883, with high commendation; in 1881 he became Fellow of the Faculty. He held many appointments, beginning as house surgeon in the Western Infirmary, going on to the position of pathological chemist to the Infirmary and assistant to Dr. Joseph Coats, then Lecturer in Pathology. About this period also he was assistant to Professor McKendrick in the Physiological Department of the University. In 1882 Newman was appointed Pathologist and Lecturer in Pathology in the Royal Infirmary, the first to hold such an appointment. A year later he joined the surgical staff of the Western Infirmary as surgeon to out-patients, and two years later again was appointed surgeon to the throat department. In 1890 he transferred completely to the Royal Infirmary, becoming surgeon to the throat department there, resigning at the same time his pathological appointment. In 1893 he was appointed visiting surgeon to



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the Royal Infirmary, and from that time onwards concentrated his energies on the work of general surgery.

Dr. Newman was recognised in Glasgow as a man of great ability and of originality of mind. He broke new ground in several fields: in the recognition of the need for clinical laboratories, for lectures to practitioners, for establishment of throat and nose work as a definite branch of surgery, and, most of all, in his special work in renal surgery. Very early in his career he published a volume on "Malignant Disease of the Throat and Nose," the fruit of his work as surgeon to the throat Departments of the Western and Royal Infirmaries.

He was one of the earliest workers in renal surgery. In 1880, after he had been qualified for only two years, he contributed to the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology* a paper on the "Functions of the Kidney." Seven years later his book on "Malpositions of the Kidneys" was published. His enterprise in the surgery of the kidney was manifested almost at the outset of his career, and it is said that he was one of the first surgeons, if not actually the first, to open into the kidney. His contributions to the surgery of the kidney were voluminous. His works included volumes on "Surgical Diseases of the Kidney"; "Diagnosis of Surgical Diseases of the Kidney"; "Renal Cases: A Series of Lectures and Clinical Reports and Surgical Studies"; "Moving Kidney and other Malformations and Malpositions of the Kidney"; "Operations on Kidneys and Ureters."

Dr. Newman's position as an authority on this subject was recognised when he was invited to open the discussion on the surgery of the kidney, taking as his subject, "Indications for Nephrotomy and Nephrectomy," at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Sheffield in 1908. He was a very frequent contributor to the Medical Societies in Glasgow, and held office as president of the Medico-Chirurgical and of the Pathological and Clinical Societies. He was a member of the International Association of Urology, and was a vice-president in the Urological Section of the International Medical Congress in London. The writer remembers the most excellent impression made by Dr. Newman at the International Medical Congress in 1913, when he addressed the Surgical Section on "Cystoscopic Appearances in Kidney Disease." Many

Continental surgeons were present at that meeting, and united in praise of Newman's contribution. He was an accomplished cystoscopist, and spent an enormous amount of time in producing accurate drawings and coloured pictures of the changes in the bladder and mouths of the ureters in diseases of the urinary tract.

His period of office as visiting surgeon to the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow extended from 1893 to 1914, when his retiral took place under the age limit rule. When the war came, and most of the junior surgeons went abroad on service, he offered his services to the Infirmary, and returned to active duty, taking charge of wards for over a year and a half, doing most efficient and honourable work.

Newman's reputation extended far beyond his own hospital and medical school. Thirty years ago his work on the kidney was well recognised in Germany, and his name was quoted and his classification of the diseases of the kidney accepted in such standard works as Osler's "Medicine." His authoritative position in urological surgery brought him many such cases, both in his public and in his private work. He discerned the cases which were suitable for active operative treatment, while at the same time distinguished those most amenable to conservatism. He was early in the field in the employment of vaccines in kidney and bladder disease, and, in his later years at least, was a strong advocate of that method.

Dr. Newman was a man of geniality of disposition, fond of social life, possessed of the gift of friendship, anxious and willing to help his junior colleagues. After retiring from the active position of surgeon to the Royal Infirmary he was appointed honorary consulting surgeon, and at the end of his war services to the Infirmary he left Glasgow, living chiefly in London. He was married to a daughter of the late Mr. William Polson, J.P., of Paisley. His daughter is in residence in London, and his son is Major E. W. P. Newman, late of the Cameronians, at present occupying the position of secretary of the Anglican Bishopric of Jerusalem.

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