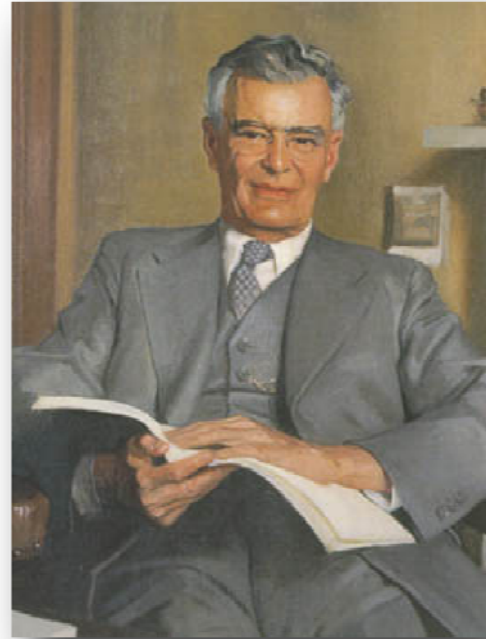


Norman McOmish Dott (1897-1973) FRCSEd 16th May 1923



Reference and contact details: GB779 RCSEd
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Location: RS P3

Title:

Dates of Creation:

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Administrative/Biographical History:

Norman McOmish Dott was born in Edinburgh and educated at George Heriot's School. Apparently set for a future in engineering, he sustained a serious hip injury while riding a motor bicycle in 1913. He was admitted to the Royal Infirmary where he came under the care of Mr Henry Wade and it was while he was in hospital that he decided to study medicine instead.

After graduating at Edinburgh in 1919 he was a House Surgeon in the Royal Infirmary and then a part-time lecturer in physiology. After becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dott spent a year in Boston with Harvey Cushing, the distinguished American surgeon, who was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the College in 1927. Thereafter Dott obtained appointments at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

He instituted the Department of Surgical Neurology in Edinburgh, being appointed Lecturer in 1932 and the first Professor in 1947. He was a founder member of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons and was twice its president. He set up a Brain Injuries Unit and later a Head and Spinal Injuries Research Unit. A perfectionist in his work, Dott devised a number of surgical instruments, some of which can be seen in the College Museum.

A distinguished pioneer neurosurgeon, Dott was one of the first to demonstrate an aneurysm in the circle of Willis by angiography and to treat it successfully by operation. He also made important contributions to knowledge of the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid and to the management of facial pain. He was awarded the rare honour of being made a Freeman of the City of Edinburgh in 1962. His portrait is featured here, an excellent likeness, oil on canvas, 1960, by William Hutchison, and is in the College. It was donated by Dr Jean Hider, his daughter, in 1983.

Certificates and honours

- I. Dott's Medical registration certificate 22 Dec 1919
- II. His CBE diploma 1st January 1948
- III. Certificate from La Societe de Chirurgie de Lyon February 1961
- IV. World Federation of Neurological Societies. Attendance certificate October 1961
- V. Diploma from Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society to Dott. 1966
- VI. Certificate from the Harvey Cushing Society, electing Dott to Honorary membership 1963
- VII. University of Edinburgh Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine July 1969

- VIII. Sociedad Luso-Espanola de Neurocirurgia certificate for Honorary Membership Madrid 1953
- IX. Societas Neuro-Chirurgica Scandinavica Honorary Membership Diploma Stockholm 1946
- X. Sociedad de Neurocirurgia de Chile Honorary Membership Diploma September 1961
- XI. Sociedad de Neurologia y ... de Montevideo Honorary Membership December 1961
- XII. American College of Surgeons. Honorary fellowship Diploma (laminated) October 1968
- XIII. Typescript 2 page biography of William S Halsted 1852-1922.
From ACS event October 1968
- XIV. 2 pages of aphorisms from ACS event Oct 1968
- XV. Scottish Association of Occupational Therapists diploma to
Dott as Honorary President 1951-1972. Painted. 1972
- XVI. Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,
16 May 1923: Diploma.
- XVII. Hon. Membership of the Scottish Association of Occupational Therapists,
12 March 1971.
- XVIII. The Syme Surgical Fellowship, University of Edinburgh, 21 July 1922.
- XIV. MB, ChB from University of Edinburgh, 19 December 1919.
- XX. Hon. Membership of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Undated.
- XXI. Certificate from the Edinburgh Medical Society? 1956.
- XXII. Hon. Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine, 4 June 1968.
- XXIII. Hon. Membership of the American Neurological Association, 15 June 1965.
- XXIV. Hon. Membership of the Sociedad Chilena de Neurologia, Psiquiatria y Neurocirugia,
12 September 1961

Reprints

- 25. Package of assorted reprints by Dott.
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