

Sir John William Moore

Born: 1845
President: 1898-1900
Died: 1937

Coming from a family that has now reached nine generations of doctors, Sir John William Moore, President from 1898 to 1900, was a man of many interests, the threads of which he wove into the tapestry of a long and remarkable medical career. This stretched from 1869, when he graduated MB and MCh from Trinity College Dublin, to his death in 1937. Over those sixty-eight years, he distinguished himself as a physician, public health expert and meteorologist. He was noted for his linguistic abilities and, prior to taking his medical degrees in Trinity, he had graduated with a BA in classics in 1865 being also elected a Scholar in classics. One of his obituarists noted that he had always insisted on the correct pronunciation of Latin words used in medicine. It was also noted that he could read 'Scandinavian', a skill which he had taught himself as he felt that, as Editor of The Dublin Journal of Medical Science, he owed it to his readers to be able to read all the journals which he received.

In 1870, he became a Licentiate of the College of Physicians of Ireland and, in 1873, a Fellow. In 1871, he had graduated MD from Trinity, and was one of only four who obtained that university's first Diploma in Public Health (at that time entitled Diploma in State Medicine). This was the first qualification in Public Health conferred by any university in Britain or Ireland. There are two points of interest to note; first, that William Stokes (qv) was one of the advocates of its institution and one of the examiners; secondly, that meteorology was one of the subjects taught. John Moore, convinced of a connection between the weather and disease, remained for the rest of his life a committed meteorologist, making daily observations both at his home and in the Meath Hospital. Additionally, for 50 years he supplied daily weather reports to the press, the *Daily Express* and the *Evening Mail* being two papers that availed of his reports.

His association with the Meath Hospital lasted for 72 years, from his entry as a student in 1865 until his death in 1937. He was William Stokes' last House Physician and, in 1875, when Stokes retired, he succeeded him as Physician to the Meath Hospital. This post he held until 1933 when he himself retired and was appointed Consulting Physician, in which capacity he continued to visit the hospital daily until a few weeks before his death. He also was physician to the Cork Street Fever Hospital. In April 1900, Queen Victoria came to Dublin, visiting the Meath; John Moore was now the Senior Physician, and after the visit he received a knighthood.

Over the course of his career he was also active in the wider medical world. In the College, he was Registrar, Vice-President and then President. He was the College's representative on the General Medical Council from 1903 to 1933. He is credited with having been a prime mover in



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the establishment of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland in 1882; this united in one Academy the various medical associations which had, up to then, catered for the different medical disciplines. He was a Member of its General Council from then until 1936. He was Professor of Medicine in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland medical school from 1889 to 1916. In 1919, he was a member of the Irish Public Health Council and when, in the proposed Home Rule arrangements for Ireland made in the Government of Ireland Act 1920, provision was made for a Council of Ireland he was nominated as a representative of the medical profession. He edited The Dublin Journal of Medical Science from 1873 to 1920, and wrote textbooks on public health (1875), on fevers (1892) and on meteorology (1894). Over his life he amassed an extensive library and he left his meteorology books to Trinity College to form the nucleus of a meteorological library; and he left those of his medical books not required by his son (a medical officer in the Royal Navy) to the College of Physicians.

An advocate of a healthy life-style, he advised moderation in all things, the avoidance of smoking particularly of cigarettes and cigars (but said that for those unable to eschew smoking, pipe-smoking was the least harmful), and daily exercise. He himself followed his own advice, walking daily from his home in Fitzwilliam Square to the Meath. In his championing of a moderate life-style and plenty of exercise he was as much a man of today as of his own era.

Shortly before his 92nd birthday, he suffered a cerebral thrombosis and a few weeks later, on 12 October 1937, Sir John William Moore, classicist, physician, meteorologist and grand old man of Dublin medicine passed away.

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