

KURT HERMANN THOMA, D.M.D., F.D.S.R.C.S.(Eng.); F.D.S.R.C.S.(Edin.)

- Born in Basel, Switzerland, on Dec. 2, 1883.  
Attended Technikum, Bursdorf, 1901-1904.  
He first studied architecture and engineering, then enrolled at Harvard University. He started in general dentistry, but after two years limited his practice to Oral Diagnosis and Oral Surgery.  
He received his D. M. D. from Harvard in 1911.  
He was Assistant Instructor and Lecturer in Dental Anatomy, Prosthetics and Anaesthetics at Harvard Medical and Dental Schools from 1912-1919; Assistant Professor and Professor of Oral Pathology, from 1919-1934, and Professor of Oral Surgery from 1941-1948.  
He was Oral Surgeon and Chief of Dental Service at the Massachusetts General Hospital from 1941-1948.  
He became Honorary Professor at San Carlos University in Guatemala in 1946, where he gave a post-graduate course as a visiting professor of the United States to Guatemala at the request of the State Department.  
He also gave a post-graduate course in Oral Surgery in Havana, Cuba, in 1947.  
In 1948, he received a Fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He also received an Honorary Fellowship at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. This latter was the second Honorary Fellowship of the dental faculty ever awarded and thus he became the first American on whom this honour was bestowed.  
He also received a Diploma from the American Board of Oral Surgery.  
In 1948, he was appointed to serve as special resident consultant in dental and oral pathology to the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, on the Staff of the Army Institute of Pathology as a part of the post-war activities of the Army Dental Corps. He was also appointed consultant in oral surgery and visiting lecturer at the Army Medical Center in Washington.  
During World War II, he served on the Selective Service Board and received the Selective Service Medal.  
He was Consulting Oral Surgeon for the Public Health Service at the Marine Hospital in Boston, and lecturer in Oral Surgery at the Graduate School of Medicine in Pennsylvania.  
He is at present Editor-in-Chief of the journal: "Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology".  
In 1950, he received the annual award of the Dental Society of New York State: the Jarvie Fellowship Medal, for his distinguished work in the field of oral cancer.  
In February, 1951, he was awarded the Pierre Fauchard Academy Medal for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of dentistry.

He has contributed to dental literature for over thirty years, in journals, and books, from his "Oral Anesthesia", published in 1914, to the 2 vol. work "Oral Surgery", of which the 2nd ed. was published in 1952.

He is an Associate Fellow of the American Medical Association; a member of the American Society of Oral Surgeons, the Odontological Society, of which he was President in 1940; the American Academy of Oral Pathology, of which he was President in 1947; Omicron Kappa Upsilon Fraternity; the New England Society of Oral Surgeons; he is an Honorary member of Psi Omega, of the Dental Society of New South Wales, Australia, the Dental Society of Guatemala, and the Odontological Society of Cuba.

Author of:

- Oral Anesthesia. 1916. 2nd ed., 1920.
- Oral Abscesses. 1916.
- Oral roentgenology. 1917. 2nd ed., 1922.
- Teeth, diet and health. 1923.
- Fractures of the maxilla and the mandible. (In Scudder. The treatment of fractures. 1926.)
- Clinical pathology of the jaws. 1934.
- The relation of oral infections to general health. (In Fones. Mouth hygiene. 1934.)
- Oral diagnosis and treatment planning. 1936. 2nd ed., 1943. 3rd ed., 1949.
- Oral pathology. 1941. 2nd ed., 1944. 3rd ed., 1950.
- Examination and diagnosis in dental practice. (In the American textbook of operative dentistry. 1940.)
- Traumatic surgery of the jaws. 1942.
- Oral surgery. 2 vols. 1948; 2nd ed., 2 vols., 1952.