A biography of Arthur Ferguson MacCallan, CBE, MD, FRCS
the trachoma pioneer.
Second Edition, 2018 (incorporating significant new material)
with an introduction by Professor Hugh R. Taylor

LIGHT
out of
Deep Darkness
SECOND EDITION

A biography of Arthur Ferguson MacCallan
the trachoma pioneer

and his campaign against the plague of ophthalmia in Egypt 1903-1923

Michael MacCallan

“For those who are interested in ophthalmia
and its history and evolution … this book is a
wonderful record and testament to how one man can
make such a large contribution.” – Professor Hugh R. Taylor

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In 1903, Arthur MacCallan accepted a position in Egypt to establish the country’s first travelling ophthalmic hospital, funded by the British philanthropist Sir Ernest Cassel.

Over the next two decades, Arthur established an extensive network of over twenty ophthalmic hospitals which attended to over 1.5 million patients and performed over 76,000 operations. He also founded the Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory (now known as the Memorial Institute for Ophthalmic Research), at Giza, which continues to play a pivotal role in ophthalmic care today.

Arthur was a world authority on trachoma, and the MacCallan Classification, developed in 1905, was adopted by the World Health Organisation as its standard in 1952. This is still recognised today as a major contribution in the fight against trachoma.

Arthur’s pioneering spirit continues to resonate with the ophthalmic profession, as may be evidenced by the recent recognition of his accomplishments by the International Coalition for Trachoma Control (The ICTC MacCallan Medal) and, for his services with military hospitals during World War I, Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Set against the backdrop of political unrest, world war, and the rapidly changing relationship between Britain and Egypt during the momentous years of the early 1900s, Arthur’s grandson Michael tells his fascinating story, brought to life through original letters, documents, colourful anecdotes and over 160 photographs.

“I regard the campaign against opthalmia as one of the most important and useful works undertaken in Egypt.”

- Lord Cromer, British Consul General, Egypt (1883-1907).

Arthur MacCallan’s biography was first published as a private, limited edition in 2013. This updated edition includes new material relating to his annual clinical reviews and provides an insightful perspective on the life and work of this exceptional medical and ophthalmic pioneer.