The honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon Sir James Learmonth by the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn at the ceremony held at 12.15pm on Thursday 23 September 1954.

The Deputy Chancellor Sir Charles George McDonald (on right) delivers the citation and the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn confers the honorary degree, photo, University of Sydney Archives.
Report

Professor of Surgery and Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, Sir James was visiting Australia as Sims Commonwealth Travelling Professor for 1954. He was on a lecturing and teaching tour under the auspices of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Later that day, Sir James was guest speaker at the ceremony to commemorate the University's benefactors, which was held on the lawns in front of the Clock Tower, attended by some 1200 people and followed by a garden party in the Quadrangle.