Address of the President at the annual meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Tuesday, March 1, 1859.

Contributors

Locock, Charles, 1799-1875. Ferguson, Robert, 1799-1865 Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

[London]: [publisher not identified], 1859.

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bsbmdrh3

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection 183 Euston Road London NW1 2BE UK T +44 (0)20 7611 8722 E library@wellcomecollection.org https://wellcomecollection.org

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY,

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1859.

GENTLEMEN,-The close of my term of office as President of this Society calls for a few remarks, and first I must congratulate the Fellows upon our undiminished, I may say, indeed, our increasing prosperity. The Report just read by the Secretary has entered into all the details of our affairs, and having rarely been absent from our meetings, I am able to say that there has been a large number of highly valuable and important papers brought before us, and many most interesting discussions. It is usual, however, in the annual address of your President, to occupy your time chiefly in a glance at the characters and professional labours of those Fellows of our Society who have been lost to us by death in the course of the past year. It is a task in which pain and satisfaction are much mingled-regret at the loss of those we have loved and valued, but some degree of pleasure in holding them up as bright examples to us all, and being able to bear testimony to their distinguished merits. On the present occasion the list is an unusually large one, and in no previous year have we had to lament so many celebrated men, and it would be difficult to find so many even amongst the living, who would be so highly esteemed, whose reputation has been so extensive, or

whose contributions to the annals of medical science have been so illustrious. With so numerous a list, my sketches must necessarily be very brief, and I therefore feel how impossible it will be to do anything like justice to their memories.

A very few days after our last annual meeting, one of our former Presidents, Benjamin Travers, F.R.S., was lost to us and to the world. Born in 1783, he died on the 6th of March, 1858. Although destined by his father to the counting-house, he very early chose the medical profession, and was one of the earliest apprentices of the late Sir Astley Cooper, at Guy's Hospital, residing in his house, with all the advantages of his personal instruction and superintendence. During his hospital studies, he was in the habit of giving demonstrations in anatomy to his fellow pupils, and after six years of his London pursuits, he passed the College of Surgeons and then went to Edinburgh for further instruction. On his return he was appointed the regular demonstrator of anatomy at the united hospitals, and in 1809 was elected Surgeon to the East India Company's Brigade, and married. In 1810 Mr. Travers succeeded the late Mr. Saunders as Surgeon to the London Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, particularly stipulating that he should not be considered as a special oculist, but that he only undertook the office as a part of the general duties of a surgeon. In 1815 he was elected Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and lectured on surgery in conjunction with the late Sir Astley Cooper, and subsequently with Mr. Tyrrell. He was elected President of this Society in 1827; he became a member of the council of the College of Surgeons in 1833, and afterwards an examiner, and on several occasions was president and vicepresident of the College, and in 1838 he delivered the Hunterian oration at the Royal College of Surgeons. On the accession of her present Majesty he was appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to the Queen, and Surgeon in Ordinary to Prince Albert, and in 1857, only six months before his death, he succeeded the late Mr. Keate as Serjeant-surgeon to Her Majesty. was thrice married, and left a numerous family; he died of pericarditis, with disease of the arteries, at the age of seventy-His contributions to medical literature were numefive.

rous, and many of them are considered standard works of reference, many of them have been republished in America and translated into continental languages. There are ten papers by him in our own 'Transactions,' consisting chiefly of dissertations on diseases of the eye, on ligatures of the arteries, and on local malignant affections. In 1818 Mr. Travers published, in conjunction with Sir Astley Cooper, a volume of Surgical Essays, his own contributions being on iritis, phymosis and paraphymosis, and on wounds and ligatures of the veins. works also emanated from his prolific pen on diseases of the eye, on constitutional irritation, on syphilitic affections, and on the physiology of inflammation. Mr. Travers was the first, I believe, to point out the salutary effects of mercury in inflammatory diseases, and although he mainly insisted upon its free employment and on the dependence to be placed on it in iritis, he took occasion earnestly to advocate it in other inflammations, a practice which has since been universally adopted. Previous to Mr. Travers's publication the use of mercury was chiefly confined to syphilitic and liver disorders, but from finding its powers so valuable in syphilitic iritis, he was led to employ it in iritis of no specific character, and then to advocate its extension to inflammations of other organs. Mr. Travers wrote with remarkable elegance, he was a most diligent student up to the close of his life, and all who had the happiness of his friendship will bear me out in saying that he was a most amiable and accomplished man and a perfect gentleman.

On the 3d of April, 1858, died, full of years and honours, Sir James Macgrigor, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., LL.D., K.C.B., Physician-Extraordinary to the Queen, and late Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army. He died at the age of eighty-seven. In 1814 he was elected a Fellow of this Society, and in 1821 was nominated as President, but declined the honour on the plea of impaired health. Born in Invernesshire, he studied in Aberdeen, of which university he was late in life twice elected lord rector, and afterwards studied in Edinburgh, and entered as assistant-surgeon in the army in 1796. After serving in various quarters of the globe with great distinction, he had the

chief superintendence of the medical part of the forces in India, at Walcheren, and afterwards in the Peninsula, where for the first time the services of that branch were publicly recognised, named in the Gazettes, and brought under the notice of Parliament. In 1815, at the peace, Dr. Macgrigor was knighted, and appointed Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army, which office he continued to hold till 1851, with the highest credit to himself and advantage to others. Sir James published in 1804 'Medical Sketches of the Expedition to Egypt from India,' and in 1810 'A Report on Fevers which appeared in the Army in Spain,' besides some other contributions to the 'Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal,' In 1815 his 'Sketch of the Medical history of the British Army in Spain and Portugal' was published in the 6th volume of our 'Transactions.' James introduced into the army the regulations for making and preserving statistical reports of the diseases, the mortality, and the invaliding of the different regiments in all parts of the world, which form a most valuable and instructive record, and which have now existed for a considerable number of years. Before his time the qualifications by previous education of the large majority of the army surgeons were of the lowest character, but he encouraged a higher class of attainments, and elevated the curriculum of study, so as to form gradually a body which yields to none in professional acquirements. Their sense of his distinguished services to them all was shown in 1814, on the return of the army from Spain, by the present of a piece of plate of the value of 1000 guineas. Sir James also founded, matured, and supported the Library and Museum of Anatomy and Natural History at Chatham, both of which are highly flourishing, and in the library are many hundred folio volumes of clinical histories, open for reference. He also founded two societies for the widows and orphans of the army medical officers, which give pensions to a numerous and most deserving class, and which are both flourishing, with very large invested capitals. Sir James was created a baronet in 1831, and elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1836, and was one of the original members of the senate of the University of London, and was

Physician-Extraordinary to George IV., William IV., and to her present Majesty. I cannot better conclude this sketch of the distinguished career of Sir James than by quoting the following words from the dispatches of the Duke of Wellington: "I have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which Dr. Macgrigor conducted the department under his direction, and I consider him one of the most industrious, able, and successful public servants I have ever met with."

Dr. John Snow, so well known in this Society, died on the 16th of June last, at the age of forty-five. It was during his year of office as one of our Council that an attack of apoplexy deprived us of one who frequently took part in our debates, and who most assiduously attended to his duties in the council-room. Dr. Snow paid great attention to the investigation of cholera, and published some papers on his views of the effect of drinking impure water as propagating that disease; but he has been chiefly known to the profession in connexion with chloroform, a subject which he took up with great earnestness and success soon after Dr. Simpson's first introduction of it. His researches into the best mode of its administration, and its effects on animals, are well known, and he was perhaps more extensively conversant with its operation, and more successful in administering it, than any living person. Dr. Snow was in constant requisition by all the principal London surgeons at their operations, and, indeed, devoted himself to it as his chief branch of practice. It has been supposed that out of the many thousand cases in which he used it, only one death occurred. It is well known that he was engaged to administer chloroform to our Queen in her two last confinements with his usual success, though in cases of labour perhaps there is less opportunity for any peculiar skill being shown, as the chloroform can only be properly given in an ordinary case, under the direction and control of the accoucheur, as to the time of giving it and withholding it, and the degree of effect to be produced. Dr. Snow, about a year before his death, had introduced a new anæsthetic agent, from which he had hoped great things-amylene, and expected it would not only be likely to produce less unpleasant effects than chloroform, but also be safer as far as life was concerned. It happened, however, that after a very few trials of it, under thirty, I believe, a fatal result occurred, and from that time he discontinued it. Dr. Snow was recognised everywhere as a remarkably modest and unassuming man, strictly honorable, of a thoroughly amiable disposition, and few have been more regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. There is an interesting memoir of him by Dr. Richardson, in a new edition of his own well-known work on anæsthetics. He was formerly Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Aldersgate School, and was also President of the Medical Society of London.

The next on our list is Mr. Sherard Freeman Statham, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Bachelor of Medicine, who was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1852, and died on the 12th of June last, at the early age of thirty-two. Mr. Statham was the author of a work 'On Low Inflammation,' and on 'Resection in Military and Civil Practice.' He was First Assistant-Surgeon to University College Hospital, where he had been chiefly educated. He then took an active part in founding the Great Northern Hospital at King's Cross, to which he was appointed surgeon. The circumstances of his death, at Maidstone, are not known to me.

Mr. John S. Gaskoin, elected a Fellow in 1819, died quite suddenly at his house in Clarges Street, of disease of the heart of long standing, on the 5th of October last, at the age of sixty-eight. Mr. Gaskoin was in practice before the passing of the Apothecary's Act, and was never an actual member of any of the medical corporate bodies. Educated at St. George's Hospital, he showed great talents as a draughtsman, and was often applied to by the medical officers to take drawings of morbid appearances for them, and this acquirement led him early to direct his attention chiefly to complaints of the skin. Although he never published on the subject, he was much consulted in these affections, and was a very successful practitioner. He was one of the surgeons to their Majesties George IV and William IV, and was also Conulting-Surgeon to the London Infirmary for Diseases of the Skin, as well as formerly one of the presidents of the London Medical Society. I had long been on the most friendly terms with him,

and I can bear full testimony to his kindness of heart and honorable character.

I approach the next honorable name in my list with the deepest sorrow, for with the late Dr. Richard Bright I had long been on terms of the closest friendship, and no one could be admitted into the intimacy of his domestic life without respecting him highly and loving him dearly. His fame is too illustrious, too widely spread, to be done anything like justice to in the necessarily brief space to which my sketches are limited, but I should disappoint you, as well as be deficient in duty, if I did not name some of his claims to the reputation which he had so gloriously earned. Richard Bright was born near Bristol in 1789, son of a member of a well-known banking firm in that city, and after a good school education went to Edinburgh in 1808, attending for the first year the general lectures, and taking a prize in mathematics, and in the following year beginning the study of medicine. In the summer of 1810 he accompanied Sir George Makenzie and Sir Henry Holland on a tour to Iceland, a journal of which was published by Sir George, to which Bright contributed portions connected with botany and natural history. On his return he resided for two years at Guy's Hospital, when its teachers were of the highest reputation, and I need only name as a proof such men as Babington Currey, Marcet, William Allen, Astley Cooper and Travers. 1812 he returned to Edinburgh, and graduated in 1813. He afterwards entered at Peterhouse, Cambridge, but after residing only two terms, he returned to his medical studies in London. the peace of 1814 Dr. Bright visited many parts of the Continent, · cultivating assiduously the French and German languages, and attending to the lectures and practice of the most distinguished of the foreign professors. He returned to England, was admitted a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians in 1816, and elected Assistant-Physician to the Fever Hospital and to the Carey Street Dispensary, which he held till he was appointed Assistant-Physician to Guy's Hospital, and in 1824, full physician. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1821, and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1832. In 1832 he commenced courses of lectures on botany and materia medica at Guy's Hospital, and in

1824 on the theory and practice of medicine, in connexion at first with Dr. Cholmely and afterwards with Dr. Addison. In 1833 he delivered the Gulstonian Lectures on 'The Functions of the Abdominal Viscera;' and, in 1837, the Lumleian Lectures on 'Disorders of the Brain.' He was elected President of this Society in 1837. Dr. Bright died on the 16th of December last, after an illness of only four days' duration, sinking from profuse hæmorrhage from the stomach and bowels, connected with a long-standing disease of the aortic valves.

Dr. Bright's many contributions to medical science are too well known to call for more than a short summary. A volume of 'Elements of the Practice of Medicine' came out, in conjunction with Dr. Addison. In the 'Guy's Hospital Reports' there are many important papers from his pen: "Observations on the Treatment of Fever," on "Diseased Arteries of the Brain," papers on "Tetanus," on "Renal Disease," a "Tabular view of one hundred cases of Albuminous Urine," "Case of displacement of the Stomach," an article on "Jaundice," and on "Malignant Diseases of the Liver," on "Tumours of the Brain and Spinal Cord," on "Abdominal Tumours," and observations on "Ovarian Disease," on "The Pathology of the Spleen," &c. &c. In our own "Transactions' there are four papers by him: "A Case of Cutaneous Perspiration analysed by Dr. Bostock," on "Diseases of the Pancreas and Duodenum," on "Adhesions and other morbid changes in the Peritoneum," and "Cases of Spasmodic Disease accompanying affections of the Pericardium." But his "magnum opus" was the large quarto volumes, illustrated by beautiful plates, with the simple title of 'Reports of Medical Cases,' the first of which appeared in 1827, and the second, in two parts, in 1831. The first volume treated of diseases of the kidney and lungs, and the pathology of fever. The second contains the papers on "Cerebral and Spinal Diseases," with those affecting the nervous system, paralysis, tetanus, epilepsy, hysteria, and hydrophobia. these subjects Dr. Bright showed the most sagacious observation, the most untiring industry, and wonderful powers of investigating truth, the end and aim of all his work. He devoted many hours daily to the minute study of his cases in Guy's Hospital,

and carried his researches constantly and with untiring patience to the ultimate test of the morbid appearances after death. papers on dropsy, and the connexion between that disease and some forms of disorganization of the kidney, he showed himself an original and profound observer, and his name will ever live in connexion with "BRIGHT'S DISEASE." It is curious and instructive to us all to note how closely and entirely he worked out his investigations; how absorbed he was solely in making out their true value, without apparently wishing to make a point or a brilliant hit, but quietly and gradually clearing away doubts and difficulties, and ending in axioms which have been universally recognised, because felt to be genuine and true. I cordially quote a sentence from one of the notices of his death which have appeared in the medical journals: "In him all have felt that the medical profession has lost one of the most original, observant, and philosophical minds that have ever contributed to the glory and the usefulness of their body." Dr. Bright did not embark in private practice till he was more than thirty years old, when he took a house in Bloomsbury Square, from which he removed some years afterwards to Savile Row. He had a very extensive practice in the latter years of his life, but it was slow in coming, for it did not depend on accident, or connexions, or fashion, but on the gradual increasing confidence which his brother medical men felt in his sound judgment, in his practical experience, in his careful investigation of disease, and in the magnitude of the reputation he had earned entirely for himself. I may also say, that even with all these high qualities, he would not have been so extensively sought after by the profession and the public, if he had not also earned their respect and regard by his honorable mind, his freedom from all display, his modest estimate of himself, and his kind and feeling heart. No one ever heard Dr. Bright speak evil of a brother practitioner. Having myself been for many years in habits of close intimacy with him, having frequently been with him as a sharer in many family distresses and also in many family joys, and having witnessed his dying moments, I feel that I have lost a most valued and dear companion, and that very few have had such opportunities of knowing what an affectionate, unselfish, excellent man he was, as a husband, as a father, and as a sincere friend.

Time rather fails me, and I must be still more brief in my remaining notices. Mr. George James Squibb, a general practitioner, of great repute, in Montague Place, Portman Square, died at the age of sixty-one, after a very short illness, on the 16th of January in this year. He was elected a Fellow in 1838, and was in the Council during my first year of office. Mr. Squibb was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a Licenciate and Member of the Apothecaries' Company, and President of the Metropolitan Branch of the British Medical Association. He was deservedly respected, and having well known him for full thirty years, I can honestly describe him as a very able practitioner and a most worthy and honorable man.

Mr. Henry Alexander, of Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, is the next on my list. He was elected a Fellow in 1813, and died on the 17th of January, at the age of 76. Mr. Alexander had been long a most distinguished oculist; he was a member of the College of Surgeons in 1805, and was elected an Honorary Fellow in 1844. He was Surgeon-Oculist to the Queen, and Surgeon to the Eye Infirmary in Cork Street. Few persons have had a larger reputation, especially as a most dexterous and successful operator, and the neatness of his hand was not his only merit, for his experience and skill in the constitutional as well as local management of diseases of the eye were fully recognised. I remember admiring his wonderful dexterity in cataract operations, as far back as the year 1817, at his eye infirmary, and I also witnessed one of his operations in private practice on a very distinguished person, more than thirty years afterwards, when advancing years obliged him to use spectacles, but still the same delicate and steady touch was not wanting.

The last name on the list of Resident Fellows, whom we have to lament, is Dr. John Bampfylde Daniell, who was elected in 1850. He took his degree at Oxford in 1836, and was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and was formerly Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Physic in the Grosvenor Place School of Medicine, as well as Physician to the

Pimlico Dispensary. Dr. Daniell had scarcely resided in London for the last few years, and the only knowledge we have of his death is from the public papers, which named that it occurred at Bonn, on the Rhine, on the 25th of January of the present year.

The first on the list of Non-resident Fellows, according to the date of death, as well, I may add, on account of his great celebrity, is Sir Philip Crampton, of Dublin, who died at the age of 81, on the 10th of June, 1858. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1817. On first beginning his professional life, he became assistant-surgeon in the army, but settled in Dublin in 1798, where he was elected Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, and gave lectures in anatomy, and soon acquired a great reputation as an operator, as well as for his remedial skill. ardently cultivated comparative anatomy and zoology, and assisted in the foundation of the Royal Zoological Society of He became consulting-surgeon—so great was his popularity-to the majority of the hospitals in Dublin, was Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen for Ireland, and Surgeon-General to the Forces, an appointment which ceased at his death. He was a member of the Senate of the University of London, and of the Queen's University in Ireland, and was three times President of the Irish Royal College of Surgeons. Sir Philip was created a baronet in 1839. Up to a great age, Sir Philip preserved the elastic manner and spirits of youth; he was a very handsome man, full of humour, of fun, and amusing anecdote, and was much sought after as a most agreeable companion, associating through a long life with all the wits and celebrities of the day. No man was more beloved by his patients, and to very consummate practical skill and scientific acquirement he added a very kind and feeling heart. For fifty years and upwards he occupied a distinguished place in the medical world and in society at large, and those best qualified to judge of his acquirements and talents as a surgeon, were not less loud in his praise, than the many who had become attached to him by his benevolent warmth of heart and his readiness to serve others.

M. Pierre Brulatour, one of the few Foreign Ordinary Fellows of our Society, to which he was elected in 1827, died on the 5th of February, 1858, at the age of 81. We were not aware of his death at our last annual meeting, or it would have been noticed then. He was formerly Director and Professor at the School of Medicine at Bordeaux, and Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, but had long ceased to practise his profession.

Thomas Bell Salter, M.D., M.R.C.S. of London and Edinburgh, who was elected a Fellow in 1844, died on the 30th of September, 1858, at the age of 45. He was the son of a well-known practitioner at Poole, in Dorsetshire, and practised at Ryde, Isle of Wight, where he was well known and much appreciated for upwards of twenty years, and he was one of the medical officers of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary. His botanical acquirements led him to be selected, in conjunction with Sir William Hooker, to edit Dr. W. Bromfield's posthumous work on the 'Flora of the Isle of Wight,' and he is represented to have been a man of distinguished scientific and general learning.

Dr. Edward Phillips, elected in 1814, died at Winchester on the 11th of November last, at the age of 81. Dr. Phillips was for many years Consulting-Physician to the Hampshire County Hospital, and was much respected in the neighbourhood.

Thomas Jones Drury, M.D., elected 1843, died at Shrewsbury, on the 19th of December last, of sloughing sore throat, after a few days' illness. He graduated at Glasgow in 1835, and was Physician to the Shropshire Infirmary, and Honorary Secretary of the Shropshire Branch of the British Medical Association, the duties of which he discharged for many years with great zeal and efficiency, and at the time of his death was one of the council of the association.

The last on my roll of Non-resident Fellows is Dr. John Kaye Booth, who died at his residence, near Sheffield, on the 14th of January last, at the age of 81. He was elected a Fellow in 1810, he took his degree of M.D. at Edinburgh in 1805, and was a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, in London, in 1809. Dr. Booth was for twenty-three years Physician to the General Hospital at Birmingham, and was Honorary Physician to the Queen's Hospital there. He was one of the founders of the Medical School of Birmingham, and the first lecturer on the

practice of physic, and in 1856 was elected Principal of the Queen's College in that town. Dr. Booth published several contributions to the medical journals, and also a treatise on hydrophobia. He was a member of many medical and scientific societies, and was a very able and highly-respected supporter of that medical school, which has since gained so high a reputation.

There are still some more of our body to lament and to commemorate-three of those whom we have done our best to honour during life by electing them Honorary Fellows. The first is an English name, much distinguished in the annals of botanical science, Robert Brown, formerly President of the Linnean Society, and Keeper of Botany at the British Museum. Born at Montrose, Richard Brown originally studied medicine at Aberdeen and Edinburgh, and became an assistant-surgeon as well as ensign in a Highland regiment. His enthusiastic pursuit of botany brought him to the notice of Sir Joseph Banks, and on his recommendation he went as naturalist, in 1801, on a voyage of discovery to Australia, along with Captain Flinders, appointed to survey the country. After an absence of nearly five years, he returned with an immense collection of plants, most of which were previously unknown. Brown's reputation as a most distinguished botanist was quickly acknowledged, and from that time he devoted his life to the pursuit. Humboldt conferred upon him the dignity of "Botanicorum facile princeps." He was from the first steps of his career to the close of Sir Joseph Banks' life, very warmly supported by that potent encourager of every branch of science. He was elected one of the eight Foreign Associates of the Academy of Sciences of the French Institute, and in 1839 the Royal Society conferred upon him the Copley medal, the highest honour at their disposal, "for his discoveries during a series of years on the subject of vegetable impregnation." He died on the 18th of June last, at the age of 81, having been elected one of our English Honorary Fellows in 1841.

Auguste Francois Chomel, one of the most successful and popular physicians in France, died at the age of 70, in April of last year. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of our Society in 1856. Chomel was of a family that has given many good names

to our profession, and for many generations, both on his father's and mother's side, his ancestors have contributed to the advancement of science in general, as well as that of medicine. His own father, however, was unable to follow medicine as a profession, from the affliction of deafness, but early recognised his son's peculiar aptitude for it, and gave him a most liberal and complete education. Chomel was first connected with the Hospital of La Charité, where he succeeded the illustrious Laennec as Professor of Clinical Medicine, and he subsequently replaced Recamier at the Hôtel Dieu. He was not a discoverer; no novelty, either in theory or practice, has been linked with his name; but no one was more followed and admired for his talent and skill in elucidating, fixing the value of, and making a true and practical use of the discoveries of others. As a clinical teacher he was in the medical wards what his colleague Dupuytren was in the surgical -a most practical man, a close and accurate observer, a profound investigator of disease, clear in his diagnosis, and most happy in his remedies. His work, 'The Elements of General Pathology,' has been translated into several languages, and gone through many editions, and his clinical lectures on fevers, on rheumatism and gout, and on pneumonia, have been long known and highly appreciated. Chomel had a most extensive practice, and was the favorite physician of Louis Phillippe and the Orleans family, but after their downfall he retired from Paris, and died after a lingering illness, his funeral having been attended by a large concourse of men celebrated in all branches of literature and science.

The last to be mentioned is the well-known Johann Müller, who was the son of a shoemaker, born in 1801 at Coblence, on the Rhine, and died suddenly on the 28th of April, 1858. He was elected Honorary Fellow of this Society in 1841. Müller was educated at the University of Bonn, where he graduated in 1822, and where he was subsequently appointed professor of medicine. In 1830, however, he was nominated at Berlin to succeed his friend and teacher, Rudolphi. His works on physiology, on minute anatomy, on zoology, and on comparative anatomy, have long had a world-wide reputation, and he threw a new and

brilliant light upon many subjects, which at the time he began his well-known investigations had either been overlooked or treated on quite a different system. His highest fame in this country may possibly be considered as due to his physiological works, but they were all based upon minute anatomy, to which branch of science he more particularly devoted himself in the The rich museums which were under latter part of his career. his care, and to which he most largely contributed, owe their chief character perhaps to his researches into comparative anatomy, and especially in the department of ichthyology, to which he devoted his untiring energies and industry to the close of his valuable and distinguished life. It has been pithily said of him, "As his worth as a physiologist raised him as a comparative anatomist, so did his acquisitions as a comparative anatomist raise him as a zoologist." Müller's reputation was already extensive before he was twenty-four years old, and his activity continued with increased and increasing power over thirty-four years of his life. His eagerness and enthusiasm in the cause of science never abated, and he was surrounded to the last by a crowd of admiring pupils, in whose pursuits he always showed the most patient and affectionate interest. In the limits to which I am confined it is impossible to do him justice, nor need I take up your time by reading a mere list of his works, which, various and numerous as they are, will be ever handed down to the admiration of future ages.

Gentlemen, this part of my task is now done—imperfectly, it is true, as it would take a much longer time than we can spare to enter upon this subject more at length, and no one is more aware than myself of the very scant measure of justice which has been bestowed on many of the illustrious names I have had to notice. Happily they have left behind them much more secure trophies, much more lasting memorials of their deserts, than a mere address like this could ever convey. I have now, gentlemen, only to take my leave of you, to resign my office of your President, and to express my thanks for the kind and friendly way in which you have always supported me in my duties. Happily for me, they have not been at all onerous—I have had no

occasion to do more than the very simple routine of presiding at your meetings, and all our discussions have been conducted in a most harmonious manner. I feel that I have never sufficiently thanked you for the great honour of appointing me your President—an honour which can fall but to very few, owing to the constitution of the Society, as I find there have only been twenty-six Presidents in the fifty-four years that the Society has existed. When I look back to the great names of those who have hitherto filled the office, and to the many highly meritorious Fellows who have as yet had no opportunity, I feel doubly my own good fortune in having been chosen to such a distinction. Two years ago I was afraid I might fail, feeling my own unworthiness, and not then knowing so well your kindness and forbearance; but you have made it a labour of love, and again, gentlemen, I beg sincerely to thank you. Farewell.