

**Address of George David Pollock, F.R.C.S., President of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, at the annual meeting, March 1st, 1888.**

**Contributors**

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ADDRESS

(14)

OF

GEORGE DAVID POLLOCK, F.R.C.S.,

PRESIDENT

OF THE

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL  
SOCIETY OF LONDON,

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1st, 1888.



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1888.

ADDRESS

BY HENRY DAVID FORBES, F.R.S.

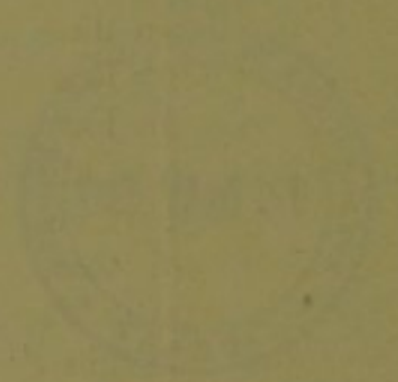
PRESIDENT

OF THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL

SOCIETY OF LONDON

IN 1851

AND THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



LONDON

JOHN A. & CO. BATHING-ROOMS

1851

ADDRESS  
OF  
GEORGE DAVID POLLOCK, F.R.C.S.,  
PRESIDENT,  
AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1st, 1888.

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GENTLEMEN,—The Annual General Meeting of our Society brings with it to your President the sad duty of having to speak of those whom death has removed from us since we met here on the 1st of last March.

Sixteen of our members have died during the past twelve months. Ten of these were Resident Fellows, and among them were some who were loved and revered by all who knew them, men who were highly esteemed for their work and eminent professional character. It may appear invidious to select one more than another, but the honoured names of Burrows, Arthur Farre, and Wilson Fox must long be remembered as bright examples of high professional worth.

Of the remaining six, five were Non-Resident Fellows, and one a distinguished Foreign Honorary Fellow, Bernard von Langenbeck, of whom more hereafter.

The first death that occurred after our last Annual



Meeting in 1887 was that of *Mr. George Bacon Sweeting*, of King's Lynn, in the County of Norfolk.

Mr. Sweeting was born at Bridport, in the County of Dorset, on the 26th of March, 1824. His father was a surgeon, and, as far as I can gather, practised in that town.

Mr. Sweeting was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1861. His professional education was commenced and completed at University College and Hospital. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1848; a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and of the Society of Apothecaries in 1851. His commencement in practice was in connection with Mr. William Image, of Bury St. Edmund's, one well known to many of us, being himself a Fellow, and a contributor to our 'Transactions.'

Mr. Sweeting remained with Mr. Image for a few years, but finally settled in practice at Lynn in 1855. Here he soon became known and appreciated for his professional worth, and succeeded in establishing for himself a high professional position, a position which he retained till a serious illness prostrated him, and no longer permitted him to work. For more than thirty years he practised in Lynn; during this time he not only was well known and trusted by the residents of the town, but acquired a considerable reputation in the surrounding neighbourhood. He was greatly appreciated by all, rich and poor, and during the whole of his professional career enjoyed a widespread reputation.

For some little time Mr. Sweeting was attached to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, but in consequence of his largely increasing practice, he found himself unable to devote such time as the duties of a Surgeon to such an Institute necessarily require, and so some few years after he resigned his appointment, and then was nominated Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital.

His last illness was of short duration, he may be said to have died in harness. Some few weeks previous to his death he had been recommended rest from all work, and change of air, and consequently he left Lynn, and went



to reside with relations at some little distance from his home. But his condition did not improve; he died on the 25th of March, 1887, in the sixty-third year of his age, greatly regretted by all who knew him.

*Dr. Charles Hutton* died after a few days' illness on the 27th of March, 1887, at his residence in Lowndes Street, Belgrave Square, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. He was the last surviving son of the late Mr. William Hutton, of Beetham and Overthwaite, in the County of Westmoreland, an old patrimonial estate which had descended from father to son over a period of 400 years.

Dr. Hutton commenced and completed his medical studies at St. George's Hospital. He became a Doctor of Medicine of St. Andrews in 1845, and a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London that same year. He studied for some time in Paris, before settling down in practice. He commenced his professional life with a small patrimony, but this was sacrificed under circumstances which only proved the unselfishness of his character, and the kindness of his disposition.

Dr. Hutton was Physician to the General Lying-in Hospital in Lambeth for over a period of twenty-seven years. He had previously been connected, as Physician, with the Hospital for Women and Children in the Waterloo Road. In connection with these appointments it was only natural that he should have devoted himself to the department of midwifery, and the disorders of women and children, and for some years he might be considered to have succeeded in practice. I have not been able to ascertain that he ever contributed to the literature of his department of practice, with the practical details of which he was most thoroughly well acquainted; he might truly be termed a good bed-side practitioner, and ready and capable to deal with all the difficulties conspicuous in the details of midwifery practice.

Only those who knew Dr. Hutton, as did the writer of this memoir, could appreciate his kindness and generosity of heart in all his associations, actions, and thoughts. He



was most genial in character, courteous to all with whom he came in contact, most attentive, we might almost say too anxious, in all that related to the interests of his patients. Professionally, his conduct was always guided by the highest principles of right and honour. His life was one of industry, self-denial, and probity, but, notwithstanding his excellent qualities and conduct, his ever most gentlemanlike and high professional character, his professional gains were not equal to his professional worth. He was a man of good education, good family, taste and high honour, and had secured the friendship of many members of the profession, and the regard of all who knew him ; simple and gentle in his manner, he gained the esteem and confidence of all who consulted him. He was taken ill on the night of the 23rd of March, and died on the 27th of that month. He was attended by his old friend Dr. Dickinson, Physician to St. George's Hospital, who tells me that Dr. Hutton had been long ailing. He was called out in the night, which was very cold, and he was almost immediately seized with an acute aggravation of his previous bronchitis, and rapidly sank under this attack.

*Dr. Daniel Wane*, late of Grafton Street, Berkeley Square, was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1852. He died on the 5th of April, 1887, in the seventy-third year of his age.

Dr. Wane was born at Penrith, in the County of Cumberland, in 1814. He was the youngest son of a large family, and suffered under the disadvantage of losing his father when but a child. He received his education at the grammar school of his native town. In the year 1832, when twenty years of age, he commenced his medical studies at Edinburgh, then famous for its many celebrated teachers, among whom were conspicuous the names of Lizars, Abercrombie, and Alison.

Dr. Wane subsequently became one of the Resident House Physicians at the Royal Infirmary, and afterwards acted as House Surgeon to Mr. Syme. In 1839 he gra-



duated ; and went to Paris, where he studied in the hospitals and schools. On his return to England he settled at Putney in general practice, where he continued till 1851, when he removed to Grafton Street, and commenced practice as a physician.

In private life Dr. Wane was much beloved. One who knew him well, writes of him to me as "a good husband and father, a steadfast friend, and, above all, an earnest Christian."

He was for many years Physician to the Blenheim Street Dispensary ; and though much occupied in practice, he does not appear to have contributed to medical literature. His health began to fail in 1882, when he decided to retire from practice. He died on his seventy-third birthday.

*Dr. William Chapman Begley*, of St. Peter's Square, Hammersmith, died on the 12th of April, 1887, in his eighty-fifth year. He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1858, and served on the Council in the years 1877 and 1878. He was born in 1803, on the 1st of August, at Dun Cormac, New Ross, County Wexford. The early loss of his father, and the greatly reduced circumstances of his family, threw upon him the care of a mother and two sisters, until their recent deaths. Dr. Begley studied medicine in Dublin, and was a Master of Arts, and Doctor of Medicine of Trinity College.

He, together with Mr. Gaskell, afterwards a Commissioner in Lunacy, took charge of a temporary hospital for the reception of cholera patients in Manchester. He afterwards had medical charge of the patients of a large cotton factory in Derbyshire, and there he remained until the factory was burnt down, and the owner ruined by his losses. It was while living here that Dr. Begley had a large field for surgical practice, and is said to have availed himself most successfully of the opportunities afforded him. After the calamitous fire just referred to, Dr. Begley was compelled to seek some new field of employment. Soon after the opening of Hanwell Asylum he was elected Junior Assistant to Dr., afterwards



Sir William Ellis. Dr. Ellis had been selected as Chief Medical Superintendent of Hanwell, in consequence of his well-known experience and humane treatment of the insane at the Wakefield Lunatic Infirmary. Here the patients had been employed in the simple routine of gardening, agriculture, and other ordinary occupations or mechanical pursuits, which in no small measure lead to the non-restraint treatment of the insane, where it was then thought practicable, and no doubt ultimately to its general adoption.

On the retirement of Dr. Conolly from Hanwell, and the division of the work into the separate supervision of a male and a female department, Dr. Begley was placed in charge of the male department; and this appointment he retained until his retirement after thirty-four years' residence in the establishment.

During this long period of honorable service his utmost endeavours were exerted to advance the usefulness of his position, and add to the improvements of this great and benevolent institution; he had the gratification to witness the continued advance in the occupation and cultivation of the best dormant qualities of those capable of improvement, under such circumstances as may be now witnessed in all asylums for the insane.

Dr. Begley was of a studious, unobtrusive and benevolent disposition, a disposition which made him ever ready to assist and comfort the suffering, or to encourage and give hope to the weary and depressed. If evidence of these excellent qualities were requisite, I need only quote from a letter received from his sorrowing widow, which tells in simple but touching words the character of the man. "He always looked upon and spoke with feeling and great pleasure of a print in his library of 'Esquirol,' contemplating the bust of 'Pinell,' whom he thought to be the first to strike off the shackles from the insane in France. The engraving was a present to Dr. Begley from a relation of Esquirol's, and the subject he thought should be of interest to all psychologists. It represents a patient un-



fettered who, when he saw the light of day, clasped his hands and exclaimed, ' Oh, God ! how glorious ! ' ”

Dr. Begley was invited to write his experiences of Hanwell ; but his health failed, and unfortunately he was never able to place on record the results of his extensive observation of mental disorders, or the diseases which are associated with lunacy.

Dr. Begley was endued with a mind of the most active and useful benevolence. All that he left behind him, after the death of his widow, goes to establish studentships in medicine in Trinity College, Dublin ; to which college he felt he owed much, at which few such endowments exist, and where students are not unfrequently crippled as to means, as he, indeed, could say with truth had been his personal experience.

*Dr. Alfred Meadows*, well known as a physician accoucheur, died on the 18th of April, 1887, after a short illness, in his fifty-fifth year.

He was born at Ipswich. He commenced his professional life at King's College Medical School, and he is reported to have distinguished himself in a very short time by his industry and energy in the work of his student life.

His early tastes were evidently towards the study of midwifery. When qualified he was selected for the office of Resident Obstetrician at King's College Hospital, and while holding that appointment he discharged the duties which devolved upon him with much satisfaction to those under whom he officiated—the forerunner of his success in securing for himself in after life a prominent position in that department of practice.

As a student Dr. Meadows gave evidence of considerable literary taste and ability, and it was while he was still at work at the Hospital that he was appointed to edit the ' Transactions ' of King's College Medical School.

In 1857 he took his degree of B.M. of the University of London, and in 1858 he obtained his M.D. degree. In 1873 he was elected a F.R.C.P.



Soon after he had commenced practice in London he became connected with the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary as Physician Accoucheur. He was also appointed Assistant Physician for Diseases of Women and Children at King's College Hospital. For some time also he held the appointment of Physician Accoucheur to the General Lying-in Hospital.

When a vacancy occurred in the office of Physician Accoucheur to St. Mary's Hospital by the resignation of Dr. Tyler Smith, Dr. Meadows was elected without any opposition, and he retained that appointment to the period of his death.

He was the author of a "Manual of Midwifery," and of a small handy work entitled 'The Prescriber's Pharmacopœia.' He was also for a time editor of 'The London Medical Review,' well known to the profession at the time, and which for some years met with a fair amount of success.

Dr. Meadows was an active and energetic man, and he was able to bring to the contested field of practice those qualities which, combined with activity and energy, ensured him a large amount of success practically. He was much esteemed by those who knew him intimately, and much trusted by those who consulted him. He was kind and hospitable in all his social arrangements, a good mechanician, clever in the adoption of means to an end, and skilful in the manipulative details of his department of practice.

The large concourse of relations and friends assembled at his funeral near his country residence at Colnbrook, told more truly than I can express in words how great was the esteem in which he was held.

*Dr. Wilson Fox* was on his journey to his country residence, near Windermere, in Westmoreland, when he was taken ill at Preston, and there, within a few days, died from the effects of an acute attack of pneumonia, complicated with old cardiac mischief.

He had left London apparently in good health, but it



was evident to those who knew him intimately that he needed rest and relaxation from work.

The news of his rapidly fatal attack at a comparatively early age was received with sorrowful regret by the profession generally, and by all who had the privilege of his friendship. It is not too much to say that in his death Medicine lost one of her most industrious and one of her most honest workers, and the profession one of its brightest examples and one of its most honorable members.

Dr. Wilson Fox was born at Wellington, in Somerset. He came of a Quaker family in the West of England, and was connected with many other well-known families of the Society of Friends. Wilson Fox himself, in later years, joined the Church of England.

He commenced his medical studies at University College in 1850, and as student there passed through a distinguished career. He became a Bachelor of Medicine in 1854, and in 1855 took his degree of Doctor of Medicine. Subsequent to the conclusion of the usual period of student life, he was appointed House Physician to University College Hospital. On the completion of his term of office he proceeded to Edinburgh, and there held the appointment of Resident House Physician in the Royal Infirmary. Having served this office for the usual time, he quitted Edinburgh and travelled on the Continent. He passed some time at Berlin, Vienna, and other schools of medicine, availing himself of the advantages offered by the teaching of Virchow, Kölliker, and others.

On his return to England he settled in practice at Newcastle-under-Lyne. Here he was soon appointed Physician to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and here also he soon acquired a considerable private practice. But the state of his health was not satisfactory, and after a time he decided to quit Newcastle. He came to London, and placed himself under the care of those in whom he had confidence. His health in time became quite restored, and then came the decision to make London his future



field of practice. In 1861 he was appointed Assistant Physician to the Hospital of his old School, University College; and at the same date he succeeded his former teacher, Sir William Jenner, as Professor of Pathological Anatomy.

In 1866 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and a few years subsequently became a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1867 he resigned the Chair of Pathology and succeeded to the Holme Professorship of Clinical Medicine, and also to the office of Physician to the Hospital. The duties of these appointments he continued to discharge to the time of his death.

From his earliest connection with the medical profession, Dr. Wilson Fox was eminently known as a thoroughly sincere and conscientious worker, independent in his views and clear in his deductions. He had succeeded largely in private practice, and his time was greatly occupied by increasing professional work. In addition to this constant strain, most leisure moments were occupied in the preparation of his great work, to which allusion will be hereafter made. He was tired and somewhat overdone by work. He had arranged to leave town on a certain day, but postponed his departure for twenty-four hours, that he might be present at an interview some few friends were to have the following morning early with Sir William Jenner, to request him to sit for his portrait.

On this same day, the 23rd of April, when on the point of departure for Westmoreland, he was summoned to a brother, then suffering from an acute attack of pneumonia, which proved fatal the following day; indeed, so rapidly fatal was this attack that Wilson Fox was barely in time to find his brother alive.

Wilson Fox now left Devonshire for the north with Mrs. Fox. He stopped at Preston to break the long journey to Windermere. On arrival he appeared to be suffering from fatigue and the depression natural to his



loss in the death of his brother. Early in the morning of the 28th of April he became faint, and short of breath. He was soon seen by his old friend, Sir William Roberts, of Manchester, who had hastened to attend him, and who found him suffering from pneumonia with extreme prostration. Sir William Jenner was communicated with; he at once went to Preston, and met Sir William Roberts in consultation. They found Dr. Wilson Fox extremely weak, and so ill that Sir William Jenner remained with him during the night. Dr. Askeff, Dr. Wilson Fox's House Physician, was also now in constant attendance. The attack appeared to be running the ordinary course of pneumonia until the Saturday morning, when, shortly after 10 o'clock, great prostration ensued, and suddenly the breathing became much hurried, accompanied by severe pain in the lower part of the right side. His old and attached friend, Dr. Russell Reynolds, was with him soon after this prostration set in, and found that the pain was not pleuritic but muscular. The chief trouble, however, was cardiac weakness. Though some gleams of hope occasionally appeared to offer a prospect of future improvement, Wilson Fox gradually became more oppressed; in the possession of all his faculties he suddenly ceased to breathe, about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 3rd of May.

On the last day of his life he desired the following touching message to be conveyed to his pupils: "Tell my boys, the students of University College Hospital, how much I love them. Tell them that the surest road to success is to have a high standard of right and honour, and to adhere strictly to it."

Thus died one beloved by all who knew him well; whose conduct was ever influenced by the highest sense of right and honour, the great importance of which he always endeavoured, by his example, to impress on the minds of his pupils, without effort or without show,—it was an inherent part of his being.

Dr. Wilson Fox had never been a strong man, in a



mere question of health and physique. He had suffered on several occasions from attacks of illness, especially some ten or twelve years prior to his death. On that occasion he was the subject of severe pneumonia complicated by heart trouble, which left the cardiac valves in a damaged state. This latter mischief had steadily progressed to the time of his fatal illness, and when now Sir William Jenner and Dr. Russell Reynolds made their respective examinations, the valvular mischief was found to have advanced to such an extent as to render any impediment to the pulmonary circulation an almost certainly fatal complication. And so it proved, and so ended the life of one of the best of men, one of the most accurate, painstaking, clear and judicious of physicians; one whose very energy and work had largely tended to shorten, as far as it was permitted to be, a life of utility and good work.

To one who knew him, as it was my privilege to do, who was indebted to him for many professional attentions, who not only admired him for his high character and affectionate disposition, but esteemed him as a sincere friend; it is difficult to speak of such a man without a fear that what may be said of him might be thought to verge on flattery; but if I am not mistaken in my estimate of the feelings of the profession, I think I may venture with confidence to say, that those who knew Wilson Fox will acknowledge and endorse all that may be recorded of his high character and professional worth and work. I cannot do greater justice to his memory than repeat the affectionate words of one of his most intimate friends, "The sudden and premature death of Dr. Wilson Fox deprives the College of Physicians of one of its most eminent, accomplished, and beloved Fellows, and the English profession of one of its ornaments. His personal bearing and physical endowments were remarkably indicative of refinement, culture, and good breeding. Tall, spare, and erect, with features finely cut in thoughtful lines, sympathetic in expression, and eager of gaze, he produced at the first



glance the impression of intellectuality and earnest kindness which were the key to his character and the secret of his charm."

Those with whom he came in contact professionally were impressed by the simplicity of his manner, his perfect honesty in all that related to the patient as also to the consultant; his entire desire to do justice to his case; the utter absence of all conceit or assumption of superiority; his careful examination into all evidence of wrong or disease; and the quiet and patient manner in which he would listen to details, or to the opinions or suggestions of those with whom he had to consult; and his gentle, careful treatment of all, whether rich or poor, it was all the same, each appeared in his pure mind to require his every attention, and to each it was given without distinction of person or circumstance. Such was Wilson Fox in his active practical work as a physician.

His contributions to scientific medicine were numerous, and of much value to the medical world. Among them may be mentioned his researches on the development of muscular tissue, which were published in the 'Philosophical Transactions;' his observations concerning the origin and structure of cystic disease of the ovary; also his work connected with diseases of the lungs and the stomach, on both of which subjects he communicated articles to 'The System of Medicine,' edited by Dr. Russell Reynolds. He contributed three papers to our 'Transactions,' the most important of which would probably be considered that "On the Temperature, Pulse, and Respiration in Phthisis and Acute Tuberculisation of the Lung," founded on eighty cases observed by himself in University College.

But again to quote the words of the writer referred to, "The work for which he was best known was his research into the nature of tubercle; to this he devoted the best energies of his life; for many years, even when he was almost alone among pathologists in this country, he stuck manfully to the thesis that tuberculosis was a peculiar and special process, and that it was not merely ordinary chronic



inflammation, as was the popular German opinion reflected in this country, until Koch's researches were published. Dr. Wilson Fox's researches led him to believe that tuberculosis might be produced by the inoculation of indifferent material, and he expressed this opinion in a lecture delivered before the Royal College of Physicians. The publication of Koch's results, while confirming the correctness of his views, as to the special characteristics of the tubercular process, necessitated a remodelling of his views as to the etiology of the disease.

"It was owing to this that the publication of his great work on diseases of the lungs, at which he had worked with extraordinary industry for many years, was postponed. We have reason to hope that the enormous mass of materials which he had brought together, and the large collection of drawings which had been prepared to illustrate it, may soon be presented to the profession under the supervision of one well capable of doing justice to such a work."

In private practice few could have been more successful than Wilson Fox. He was early associated professionally with the Court. In 1870 he was appointed Physician Extraordinary to the Queen, and subsequently Physician in Ordinary. The latter appointment only terminated with his death. As Physician in Ordinary to Her Majesty he won the confidence and regard of his Sovereign. After his death Her Majesty was graciously pleased to have placed on record in the official Court Circular that "The Queen was much grieved to receive yesterday the news of the death, after a few days' illness, of Dr. Wilson Fox, one of Her Majesty's Physicians in Ordinary. Dr. Wilson Fox had formerly been in frequent attendance on the Queen in Scotland, and Her Majesty had a great regard for him. The medical profession loses in him one of its most distinguished members."

Such words mark the high estimation in which Dr. Wilson Fox's character and professional services were



held by Her Majesty, while at the same time they do honour to a Queen who has ever been mindful of the services rendered Her Majesty by Her Majesty's Medical Staff.

Wilson Fox was buried in a family grave at Taunton. Dr. Russell Reynolds was present on the occasion, having received Her Majesty's commands to represent Her Majesty at the funeral. He was also entrusted with a wreath to be placed on the coffin on Her Majesty's behalf; attached to the wreath was a card, on which Her Majesty had written the following words: "A mark of sincere regard and esteem from Victoria R.," an additional token of Her Majesty's sympathy and respect for one who well deserved the trust placed in him by the Queen.

*Mr. William Edward Crowfoot* was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1849. He died, after a short illness, at Beccles, in Suffolk, on May 12th, 1887.

Mr. Crowfoot was born in 1806. He commenced his medical life at Guy's Hospital, and in 1828 became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. In the same year he also became a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, and in 1845 he became a Fellow of the College of Surgeons by examination.

Mr. Crowfoot commenced practice at Beccles in partnership with his father, and there for more than fifty years he lived and worked, with unwearied and constant attention to the arduous duties of a country medical practitioner; and in the discharge of these duties he appears to have won universal respect and esteem.

Mr. Crowfoot was evidently a man of much energy and thought. Early in life he took great interest and an active part in the local affairs of the town in which he resided, especially in sanitary and general questions of improvement. He acted on the Town Council of Beccles, was one of its Aldermen, and was Mayor in the years 1852 and 1853. He was, moreover, one of the most active supporters of the local Hospital, and had for many



years held the appointment of Consulting Surgeon to that Institution.

He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Suffolk in 1871, and was a constant attendant and useful member on the bench.

From all that I can gather, Mr. Crowfoot was one of those active benevolent-minded men, whose constant aim appears to have been to do good to his fellow-creatures. He identified himself largely in movements for the education and improvement of the working classes. His kindness and generosity were duly appreciated by the poor of his neighbourhood, who, with confidence of assistance or advice, were ever accustomed to apply to him as to a friend, in whom they would find sympathy in their trouble, and help if that were desirable and deserved.

Mr. Crowfoot, though active and energetic in matters municipal and educational, was by no means unmindful of the importance attached to the work of practice, or forgetful of the interests of his profession. He had an extensive general, as also a considerable consulting practice. He was an active supporter of the hospital, and a member of what was formerly the Norfolk and Norwich Pathological Society, now merged into the Norfolk and Norwich Medico-Chirurgical Society.

He was also President of the East Anglian Branch of the British Medical Association in 1855.

Mr. Crowfoot was a man of considerable mental ability, with a mind much cultivated by reading, and European travel. "To live for others," writes a friend, "to work for others, to relieve their wants, comfort their sorrows and lighten their burdens, was his constant aim."

Such appear to have been the grand moving objects of his life. He leaves behind him a memory which will long be held in respect and esteem.

*Mr. Henry Curling* was well known to many Fellows of this Society, and was highly esteemed by all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. He died on the 17th of June, 1887, in his seventy-second year.



Mr. Curling was educated at Ramsgate, and subsequently became a pupil of the late Mr. Freeman of Spring Gardens, who was at that period extensively engaged in a leading general practice. Mr. Curling subsequently studied at the London Hospital under his grandfather, Sir William Blizard, then Surgeon to that Hospital; and here young Curling carried off many prizes.

Having qualified as Member of the College of Surgeons, and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries in 1835, he studied for a time in Paris, Berlin, and Vienna. In Paris, for a year, he chiefly worked in the wards with Andral and Louis, and many of their cases he reported in the Medical Gazette of that day.

After travelling through Germany and Italy he settled in practice at Ramsgate, and there soon made his mark and acquired a leading position. He was one of the founders of the Ramsgate Hospital, and was for many years Surgeon to the Sea Bathing Infirmary at Margate, to the duties of which office he was most constant and attentive.

Mr. Henry Curling became a Fellow of this Society in 1846. Though always largely engaged in practice, and with considerable experience in the treatment of every variety of strumous disease of joints at the Margate Infirmary, it is to be regretted that he did not publish any observations on this most interesting and important subject.

On his retirement from the active official duties of the Infirmary, his name continued connected with it, till his death, as Consulting Surgeon.

Mr. Curling was always courteous and kind to all with whom he came in contact. He was an excellent man of business, in proof of which statement I need only mention that while engaged in very active practice he was elected Chairman of the local Gas and Water Companies of the town. At the request of the Magistrates he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent, and also of the Cinque Ports, to the magisterial duties of which he devoted much time.



For the last ten years Mr. Henry Curling had retired from active practice, and usually passed some months in each year in London and on the Continent. In the commencement of last year he was apparently in good health, but towards the end of January grave symptoms of disease manifested themselves, he rapidly failed in health, and died, as already stated, in the month of June, beloved and mourned by all who knew him. Mr. Henry Curling possessed great good sense and much culture. Some years prior to his death a patient, with whom he had been on most intimate terms, bequeathed him a valuable library, which proved a great source of enjoyment and occupation to him in his hours of leisure after his retirement from practice. He was the elder brother of Mr. Thomas Blizzard Curling, who occupied this chair some few years back, and who, I am happy to say, we still number among our Fellows.

*John Beswick Perrin*, of Vernon House, Leigh, in Lancashire, died on the 13th June, 1887. He was originally a pupil of Mr. Brideoak, of that town, and subsequently pursued his professional studies at King's College Hospital and Medical School. For four years he was Senior Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy at the College, and for the greater part of two summers acted as Assistant Curator under Mr. Flower in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1840 he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy at King's College with Professor Curnow, and in 1872 was selected as one of the Demonstrators of Practical Biology under Mr. Huxley at the Science School, South Kensington. During three sessions he gave practical courses of demonstrations in anatomy to the art students of the Royal Academy of London, and gratuitous courses in 1870-71 of lectures in physiology to the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street. In 1872 the Senate of Owens College appointed him Tutor, and in 1873 he was appointed to the additional office of Demonstrator in the Medical School.

While resident in London he was constantly busy with



his pen. He contributed many articles to the medical press, and also to the magazines and reviews of the day. In 'Nature' he published an article "On an Additional True Rib in Man," and in the 'Medical Times and Gazette' one on "The Muscular Irregularities observed in the Dissecting Room at King's College," also on "The Affinities of the Omo-hyoid and Digastric Muscles." Several other contributions from his pen found place in the 'Dental Journal,' in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' and the 'Journal of Anatomy and Physiology.'

Mr. Perrin became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1866, was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1870, and was also a fellow of the Linnæan Society.

In 1874 he became a candidate for the Professorial Chair of Anatomy at Owens College. In this he was not successful, though to his credit it should be recorded that nothing could exceed the high testimonials as to his capacity for work, and his eminent qualifications for the appointment.

Mr. Perrin having failed to secure the appointment so congenial to his tastes, and for which he was in every sense admirably suited, now decided to settle in practice at Leigh. Here he soon endeared himself to a very large circle, and had ample scope for the exercise of his benevolence and generosity. He is said to have been an excellent surgeon, and it is written of him that "no one could amputate a limb or set a fracture with greater skill and dispatch—in fact, he was a born operator."

He pursued scientific investigations through the night, when sleep had been well earned by his day's work, and thus by degrees he injured his health, and shortened his valuable life, which, if spared, would probably have enabled him to do something for the advancement of his profession, and much for the benefit of suffering humanity. Dr. Curnow, who knew him well, writes to me that "he was in many ways an exceptional man." His constant efforts were to do good, not claiming credit for himself or believing himself faultless; he laughed at those who



warned him that he allowed others to pick his brains. "Knowledge," he used to say, "should be as free as air, and no one should bottle it up."

On his retirement from Owens College an address, accompanied by a timepiece, was presented to him by the students of the Manchester Royal School of Medicine, as "a unanimous testimonial of our interest in you, and our good wishes for your future prosperity and happiness," to which address were added the signatures of more than a hundred students.

Mr. Perrin prophesied some years previously that his death would be due to cancer of the liver, and such it proved. He died in his forty-third year, regretted and beloved, a man honest, generous, and without guile.

*Mr. Richard Quain* at the time of his death was one of the oldest Fellows of this Society; he was elected a Fellow in the year 1835. He died on the 15th of last September at his residence in Cavendish Square, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was born near Fermoy, Co. Cork, in 1800. Dr. Jones Quain, and Sir John Richard Quain, one of H.M. Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, were his half brothers.

On the completion of his early general education at Fermoy Mr. Quain came to London, and commenced his professional work at the Aldersgate School of Medicine, where Dr. Jones Quain was already a teacher, and who subsequently was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at University College.

Mr. Richard Quain became a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1828. He first acted as Assistant to his brother at University College, but in 1832 was appointed Professor of Anatomy. He was also about this time appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Hospital then known as the "North London Hospital," but now familiarly recognised by us all as University College Hospital; his seniors were Mr. Samuel Cooper and Mr. Robert Liston. These three names constituted the Surgical Staff when that Institution was opened for the reception of patients.



Mr. Quain became Surgeon to the Hospital in 1850, and retired from that office in 1866. He was then appointed Consulting Surgeon, and Emeritus Professor of Clinical Surgery to University College.

In 1843, when the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England was established by Royal Charter, Mr. Quain was one of those selected to be nominated a Fellow, and was one of the senior London Fellows at the time of his death.

In 1854 he was elected a Member of the Council of the College of Surgeons, and in 1855 a Member of the Court of Examiners.

In 1868 he became President of the College of Surgeons as a matter of seniority, as was then, and it may be even said is still, the custom which prevails in the election of President by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. I trust I shall not be considered to be speaking treason when I mention that this is a custom which many of the Fellows of the College think would be "more honoured in the breach than the observance."

Mr. Quain delivered the Hunterian Oration in 1869. This was chiefly devoted to the consideration of some of the defects in general education, a subject in which he was much interested. He was also the author of 'Some Observations on the Education and Examination for Degrees in Medicine,' and also 'Observations on Medical Education.'

In 1870 he represented the Council of the College of Surgeons on the General Medical Council. He was one of Her Majesty's Surgeons Extraordinary at the time of his death.

Mr. Quain published a work on 'Diseases of the Rectum;' and, later in life, some clinical lectures.

He is, however, best known by his beautifully illustrated work on 'The Anatomy of the Arteries of the Human Body.' This, it may be certainly stated, is one of the most valuable and important publications in all that relates to the surgical anatomy of the blood-



vessels. He was greatly assisted by his cousin Dr. Richard Quain in the preparation of this work, and the illustrations were furnished by Mr. Joseph Maclise, and could not be excelled for accuracy or skill.

Mr. Quain edited the fifth edition of Dr. Jones Quain's 'Elements of Anatomy,' a work which has rendered the study of the anatomy of the human body a comparatively easy matter to the younger generation of students; while its careful investigation of the question of development of the bones adds greatly to the interest of the study of the human skeleton. It is doubtful whether any better work, for accuracy in detail or clearer style of description, has ever passed through the medical publisher's hands, and it still remains one of our best standard works on human anatomy.

He was a man of liberal education, and was well read. I am told he was a cautious rather than a demonstrative surgeon; but on all matters of clinical detail he appears to have been practical, sensible, and painstaking. So was he also in all that related to the practice of his profession. Probably he was most justly described by one who said "He shone in sound clinical principles."

He suffered greatly in the latter period of his life; want of sleep and continued pain, at the advanced age of eighty-seven, proved too serious, and he sank under these troubles.

*Mr. John George French* died suddenly at his residence in St. John's Wood on the 4th December last, in his eighty-third year. He was born at Bow, in Middlesex, in October, 1804, and was the son of the Rev. William French, rector of Vange in Essex. He was educated at Christ's Hospital. Having served his apprenticeship to a medical man at Worthing, he completed his studies at Guy's Hospital. He became a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries in 1825, and a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1827. In 1830 he was appointed Surgeon to the St. James's Workhouse Infirmary, and for forty-two years he discharged the duties of this office with great skill and



credit, and with much kindness and attention to the large number of patients that annually came under his care.

The Infirmary and Workhouse contained between sixty and eighty beds. This large field for work was congenial to one of Mr. French's character and energy, and he availed himself of it thoroughly. He was fond of his work and ever anxious to improve whatever appeared to him capable of improvement.

In 1853 he became a Fellow of the College of Surgeons; he was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1836.

In 1831 the cholera first visited England, and when it appeared in London a cholera hospital was established in St. James's Parish, and Mr. French was appointed the Medical Officer to it.

In the terrible outbreak which occurred in 1854 it may be remembered by some present that the late Dr. John Snow first promulgated his views that cholera was conveyed by drinking impure water. Though at first Mr. French was not satisfied on this point, he ultimately became a thorough believer in the soundness of Dr. Snow's views on this subject.

Mr. French was a very painstaking and intelligent practitioner, and was known to many for his advocacy of the treatment of carbuncle by subcutaneous incisions. He published a paper on the subject in the 'London Medical Review,' and although his proposal does not appear to have gained the approval of the profession generally, Mr. French had reason to congratulate himself on its satisfactory results in his own practice. In a letter, addressed to the President of the Local Government Board, he thus refers to the subject:—"Carbuncle is one of the most curable maladies that is ever presented to the Surgeon, so far is it removed from the apprehension of any fatal result, that the disease may be instantly arrested, and the cure (?) so rapidly effected, that the patient is enabled to pursue his ordinary avocation without interruption."

He also communicated his views on this subject in a



paper to this Society, but it was not deemed eligible for publication in our 'Transactions.'

Mr. French had for some years retired from practice, probably partly owing to increasing deafness. He had retired to bed in apparent good health, but was found dead in the morning, feeble heart action probably being the final fatal cause.

*Dr. Robert Greenhalgh* died suddenly at his residence in Cavendish Square, after a long and distressing illness, in the seventieth year of his age. He commenced his medical education at the Middlesex Hospital, and subsequently studied in Vienna and Munich. He practised for many years in Bloomsbury, and always more or less devoted himself to midwifery.

When Dr. Charles West in 1861 retired from St. Bartholomew's Hospital as Physician Accoucheur and Lecturer on Diseases of Women and Children, Dr. Greenhalgh was appointed as his successor, and he is reported to have proved himself an excellent practical teacher in this his special department.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1843. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1842, M.D. of St. Andrews in 1853, and a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1859. He served on the Council of this Society in 1871-72, and a communication of his was printed in our 'Transactions.'

In 1877 he was compelled by the state of his health to retire from his hospital appointments, and not many years later he was obliged to relinquish private practice entirely.

He had been previously associated with the City of London Lying-in Hospital. He was Consulting Physician Accoucheur to this Institution, and also to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to the time of his death.

Dr. Greenhalgh was well known at the Obstetrical Society, and frequently entered into debate at its meetings. He was in many respects not wanting in words and arguments to enable him to hold his own against many well-



known debaters of that Society. We may certainly give him credit for his advocacy of abdominal exploration, and his encouragement of ovariectomy. He published in the 'Transactions' of the Obstetrical Society a well-considered paper "On the Comparative Merits of the Cæsarian Section and Ovariectomy in Cases of Extreme Distortion of the Pelvis."

In 1867 he was able to show at one of the meetings of the Society the uterus of a patient from whom he had removed the cervix for epithelioma of the os eighteen months before death.

Dr. Greenhalgh must be considered as one of those who early commenced to advocate the operations of abdominal section, which has largely contributed to the advancement of abdominal surgery.

He was a severe sufferer from asthma. This greatly interfered with his daily ease and professional duties, but he was ever patient under these trials and privations—ever kind and considerate to all with whom he came in contact. Latterly he became the subject of locomotor ataxy, which progressed rapidly. He died exhausted on the 30th of October, 1887.

*Dr. Arthur Farre* died on the 17th of last December. He was the fifth son of the late Dr. John Richard Farre, of Charterhouse Square, well known and highly esteemed as a Physician. The latter was one of the original promoters, with Mr. John Cunningham Saunders in 1806, of the London Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, now the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital in Moorfields. This was the first institution of the kind in the world in point of time, but an example which has been so generally followed that it would be difficult to mention any large town in England or in Europe and the Colonies which does not now possess an Ophthalmic Hospital, or some institution for the relief of diseases of the eye.

Arthur Farre was younger brother of Dr. Frederick Farre, many years Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and more lately Treasurer of the College of Physicians.



The younger brother Arthur was born in Charterhouse Square in 1811, in the house in which his father lived and practised for many years. He was educated at Charterhouse, and subsequently, in 1827, became a pupil at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The following year he entered at Caius College, Cambridge. In the intervals of the University terms he studiously attended lectures and the medical practice at St. Bartholomew's; he was constant in his work in the dissecting room, at that time conducted under many difficulties which no longer interfere with the free study of anatomy in this country. Arthur Farre was soon appointed Prosector under Abernethy, and prepared subjects for the lectures on Physiology during the last course delivered by that distinguished Surgeon. Arthur Farre graduated as M.B. at Cambridge in 1833, at the head of the Medical List, and took his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1841.

During 1836-37 Dr. Farre lectured at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Comparative Anatomy, having succeeded Richard Owen in that Chair. Preparations illustrating his observations are still contained in the museum. He also lectured on Forensic Medicine in 1838-40.

About this period Dr. Farre turned his attention to obstetrics, and gained so much reputation in this department of practice that he was appointed in 1841 Professor of Obstetric Medicine at King's College, London, and at the same time was attached to the Staff of King's College Hospital as Physician Accoucheur. This appointment he held till 1862, when on his resignation he was nominated Consulting Physician Accoucheur to the Hospital. He was succeeded by Dr. Priestley.

Dr. Farre became a Member of the College of Physicians in 1838 and was elected a Fellow in 1843, he was Censor in 1861-62, and Senior Censor in 1865. He delivered the Harveian oration in 1872.

He was appointed Examiner in Midwifery to the College of Surgeons, and held that appointment for twenty-four years. He resigned in consequence of a



difference with the Council of the College concerning the propriety of admitting women who were not Members of the College to the examination in midwifery, and was cordially supported by the simultaneous resignation of his colleagues Dr. Priestley and Dr. Robert Barnes.

Dr. Farre was appointed Physician Extraordinary to Her Majesty in 1875, and Physician Accoucheur to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, whom he attended in all her confinements. He also attended the late Princess Louis of Hesse Darmstadt, Princess Alice of Great Britain, in her first confinement; also Her Imperial Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh in her first confinement at Buckingham Palace in 1874, and again in 1875 at Eastwell Park. He also attended Princess Christian, Princess Helena of Great Britain, in her first confinement in 1867 at Windsor Castle, and again in 1869 at Cumberland Lodge. He attended the Princess Mary Adelaide in all her confinements, and the Princess Leinengen in her first confinement in 1863 at Osborne. These notes have been copied from Arthur Farre's private memoranda. He was never heard to boast of or even allude to the great responsibilities thrown upon him by all this professional work in connection with Royalty. Few men, perhaps, have had the honour to attend so many members of the Royal Family, and none with greater success; but while many members of our profession have been recognised as deserving distinction, Arthur Farre's services appear to have been entirely overlooked during his lifetime. Yet no word of dissatisfaction ever passed his lips; he rested satisfied with the knowledge that his work had been well done and honestly done.

Arthur Farre was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1839, when only twenty-eight years of age.

On the death of Sir Charles Locock, in recognition of his position as leader among English obstetricians, he was made Honorary President of the Obstetrical Society. He became a Fellow of this Society in 1844. He served on the Council and as Vice-President in 1864. But notwith-



standing his large hospital and private practice in the disorders of women and obstetrics, he failed to offer us any communication relating to his department of medicine, which all must regret, as Arthur Farre was a most observant and clear-headed practitioner.

In 1851-52 he was President of the Microscopical Society, which Society he assisted in founding; was the first Honorary Secretary, served several times on its Council, and secured for it, through the influence of the Prince of Wales, its Royal Charter.

Arthur Farre made his mark early in life as a scientific worker as well as a thoroughly good practical physician. The article "Uterus and its Appendages," with numerous illustrations from his own original drawings, published in the 'Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology' in 1868, of which it forms two complete numbers, was regarded as the standard authority on that subject, and may truly be said to be a model of scientific precision, both in its anatomical and physiological details. It is a compendium of all that relates to the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the uterus, together with the changes which the uterus undergoes during pregnancy.

He communicated many papers to the Royal and Microscopical Societies; and a paper published in the 'Medical Gazette' in 1835, on the *Trichina spiralis* (then recently discovered), illustrated by woodcuts, thus showing its minute anatomy and pointing out the true structure of this parasite. He was also the author of "Observations on the Minute Structure of some of the Higher Forms of Polypi." "Lectures on Comparative Anatomy," reprinted from the 'Philosophical Transactions.' "An Account of the Dissection of the Human Embryo, with Observations on the Early Development of the Human Heart," and other interesting papers.

Dr. Farre had been much over-worked for some time prior to his retirement from practice. The loss of a beloved wife came as a terrible blow to his happiness, and much saddened his later days. Then, in the midst of



much professional work and consequent mental strain, occurred a sad accident by which he sustained a compound fracture of his ankle-joint. For many weeks it was doubtful what the result might be, but gradually the wound healed, and in the course of time he was able to move about on crutches. But though he was in time able to discard these for a stout stick, he never was able to use the injured limb without discomfort and pain. He retired from all professional work, and passed his latter days in his favourite amusements of music, literature, and occasional social meetings with some few friends; latterly these meetings became less frequent owing to failing strength and increasing pain on movement.

Independent of Arthur Farre's scientific work and professional excellence, it is only due to his memory to add there was all that in him that represented the perfect gentleman. Combined with the highest sense of honour in regard to all that related to his department of medicine, he was a model physician accoucheur, guided by the highest principles, and never influenced by greed. He worked for the good of mankind and his reward was the high estimation in which he was held by his college and the profession generally, and the sincere and warm friendships he secured in private. He was not a man of any public demonstration, but those alone who knew him intimately could sufficiently appreciate his kind, gentle, and generous nature. A man of many genial qualities, and much wit and sharpness of intellect, of most tender feelings, and ever ready to do a kindness to a professional brother who might need his advice or assistance. It was my privilege, as it was always my pleasure, to have much to do with him during his long confinement to bed in consequence of his accident. I can truly say I never met with a more trustworthy, confiding, high-minded, and grateful character than that of my old and esteemed friend Arthur Farre.

*Sir George Burrows* died on the 11th of December of last year. He was born in 1801, in Bloomsbury Square,



where his father, Dr. George Mann Burrows, then resided. His early education was commenced at a school at Ealing, and in due time he went up to Cambridge, and entered at Caius College. Here he soon obtained a Tancred Studentship. But, putting aside medicine for a time, he devoted his attention more exclusively to the special study of the University, and ultimately came out tenth Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos of 1825. He was at once elected a Fellow of his college, and Junior Mathematical Lecturer. He occupied his spare time with pupils, and is said to have been a popular and successful teacher. He subsequently left Cambridge, and commenced his professional work as a pupil at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and there he worked under Dr. Latham and Sir William Lawrence, and served the latter as dresser for twelve months. He obtained his M.B. degree in 1826, and, having completed the time of student life, he travelled abroad, and studied in Paris and Pavia and at some of the schools in Germany. When the cholera appeared in London in 1832, he was placed in charge of an auxiliary Hospital, established by the Governors of St. Bartholomew's to meet the great demand on their accommodation. In 1834 he was appointed the first Assistant Physician to take charge of out-patients. His first appointment as Lecturer was to the Chair of Forensic Medicine, and subsequently he became joint Lecturer with Dr. Latham on Medicine.

Dr. Latham retired from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as Physician, in 1841, in a great measure in consequence of the state of his health. Dr. Burrows was now appointed sole Lecturer, and also Physician to the Hospital, an appointment he held with great distinction till 1863. He then retired from the active staff, and was elected Consulting Physician, being the first medical officer connected with his Hospital on whom this honour had been conferred. On this occasion a testimonial was presented to him by his colleagues, in recognition of his high character and past services to the Medical School and Hospital. In 1832 Dr. Burrows became a Fellow of



the Royal College of Physicians, where in later years and at different intervals he delivered the Gulstonian, the Croonian, and Lumleian Lectures.

At the College of Physicians he occupied, at various periods, the offices of Member of Council and Censor, and he represented the College on the General Medical Council. In 1871 he was elected President of the College of Physicians by the unanimous voice of the Fellows, and in recognition of his administrative qualities and high conduct while occupying that chair he was called upon to undertake the duties of that important and honorable position for five consecutive years.

He was appointed Physician Extraordinary to Her Majesty in 1820, and on the death of Sir Henry Holland succeeded him as Physician in Ordinary to the Queen. This appointment he held till the time of his death. In 1874 Her Majesty was graciously pleased to confer on Dr. Burrows the honour of a Baronetcy—it came unsolicited, but not undeserved—and, by all who knew him, was considered to be bestowed on one well worthy of such distinction.

Sir George Burrows was always active. In his earlier days at Cambridge he was well known as a good "oar" on the river. He took a most active and useful part in all that related to the interests of his profession. He was a Member of the Senate of the University of London, for a time President of the General Medical Council, President of the British Medical Association, and in 1869–70 President of our Society. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, D.C.L. of Oxford, LL.D. and Honorary Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge. He had long been a liberal supporter of the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, and till within a short period of his death had held the office of President, and most regularly attended the Committee Meetings.

Sir George Burrows was not a voluminous writer, but what he wrote was the result of his own honest observation and opinion, and as such valuable and instructive.



He was the author of a work on 'Disorders of the Cerebral Circulation,' and one on the 'Connection between affections of the Brain and Diseases of the Heart,' being the substance of his Lumleian Lectures delivered in 1843-44. He also contributed several articles to 'Tweedie's Library of Medicine.'

He was a man of excellent business habits, conscientious in the discharge of every duty, large-hearted and benevolent, ever actuated in all his thoughts and actions by a high sense of honour and justice. Sir James Paget says of him that his lectures were "plain, judicious, and complete; all that was generally accepted or most probable, all the best facts that he could learn in practice, or in a fair range of reading, he explained simply and in good English; he seldom suggested or discussed hypotheses; he was never dull, or cold, or trivial, but he never seemed to wish to be thought brilliant."<sup>1</sup> It was only necessary to meet him in consultation to be satisfied of his carefulness in the examination of a case, of his judgment in weighing the importance of every symptom, and of the general correctness of the opinion arrived at, added to the extreme simplicity of treatment and the common-sense advice he gave his patient. Though to some he may have appeared, in consultation, somewhat reserved in manner, and not too lavish of words, to those who knew him intimately he was always genial, tender, and considerate, ever ready to do any act of attention to a sick professional brother, and large-minded enough and willing to bring to notice the services of any member of the profession whom he considered worthy of recognition and reward. It is a personal gratification to me to be able to record my estimate of his high professional character, of his undeviating right and exemplary professional conduct, and of his constant endeavour to maintain the dignity of his order. I had much to thank him for. No one could have been more attentive or more feeling than

<sup>1</sup> "Memoir of Sir G. Burrows," by Sir James Paget. 'St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports,' 1888.



when, on more than one occasion, I was compelled by illness in my family to seek his professional aid.

Shortly before his death Sir George Burrows tendered his resignation as trustee of this Society, in consequence of advancing years. This office he had held for many years. The Council, in accepting his resignation, desired me as your President to communicate with Sir George; and while acknowledging the receipt of his letter, to convey to him the thanks of the Council for his long services; and with your permission I will read that answer, as it entirely alludes to those services. "In accepting your resignation the Council desire me to convey to you their grateful thanks for your numerous and long services to the Society as trustee for many years; as Member of Council, and as Vice-President and President. It has fallen to the lot of few to have thus honorably served the Society, it is not the lot of many to have served it so faithfully, so efficiently, and with such perfect success as to ensure the general and sincere approbation of the Fellows of the Society. It is for these past services that I have now to beg of you to accept, on behalf of the Council, their unanimous and cordial thanks; thanks which we all feel the whole Society would heartily join in, were it called together to express an opinion on the subject. In the name of the Fellows, as in that of my own, I am sure I may express the sincere wish that the evening of your life may be one of prolonged peace and happiness, one of freedom from pain or suffering."

He received this letter but a few days previous to his death; he was never well enough to reply to it.

Sir George Burrows was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1833. He was the oldest Fellow on our list at the time of his death.

He married in 1834 the youngest daughter of Mr. Abernethy, one of his former teachers at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Lady Burrows died in 1882, after a married life of great happiness, though saddened by the loss of several children.



In the autumn of 1886, while residing in the country, he met with a severe accident, a fall on his back when entering his house. He was very much shaken and suffered great pain, with considerable muscular trouble, a condition which necessitated his confinement to bed for many weeks. He returned to town, but he never appeared to have entirely shaken off the effects of this accident, it left him permanently weaker and less capable of exertion. As the summer advanced he was again able to see his friends and take carriage exercise, but to those about him the decline of power gradually became more evident, until the end. The morning previous to his death he got up, dressed, and was ready to receive Canon Capel Cure when he arrived to administer the Holy Communion. As the day went on he gradually became weaker and passed away in sleep soon after twelve the same night, in his eighty-seventh year. He was buried at Highgate. The large assembly of relations, colleagues, old pupils, friends, and even some grateful patients, present at his funeral bore best testimony to the worth of the man, and the affection with which he was regarded by all who knew him well.

*Dr. Walter Benoni Houghton* was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1878. He commenced his professional work as a student at University College and Hospital. Those who knew him best report that a more brilliant student career than that of Walter Benoni Houghton could scarcely be conceived, and that he bore the honours which fell to him with a modesty and grace which almost removed the disappointment of those whom he excelled.

Dr. Houghton was born in 1851. He was educated at Cambridge House, Blackheath. In 1866 he passed the Cambridge Local Examination with honours. The year following he passed the Oxford Local Examination, and became an Associate in Arts of that University. He matriculated at the University of London in 1868, passed the preliminary Scientific for M.B. in 1869, and the same year entered as a student at University College and Hospital. In his first session he obtained the second



Silver Medal for Chemistry, and in the second session the first Silver Medal for Anatomy and Physiology. In 1872 he obtained the Gold Medal for Surgery, and the Gold Medal for Medical Jurisprudence. In the same year the distinctions he gained at the University of London were remarkable; on passing the first M.B. he was awarded two Exhibitions, and Gold Medals for Anatomy and for Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry respectively.

In 1874 he took both the degree of M.B. and B.S., and also became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1876 he became an M.D. of London, and a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in the following year.

He acted as Physician's Assistant, and Obstetric Physician's Assistant at University College in 1877. He then soon after was appointed Medical Registrar, and Lecturer on Botany at Charing Cross Hospital, and then Assistant Physician.

A career so bright, hopeful, and promising, was, however, only too soon and too sadly cut short by severe attacks of illness, into the details of which it is not to our purpose to enter; but the result was that he had ultimately to resign his appointments at Charing Cross Hospital, and seek change of residence. He settled in St. Leonards; but the change did little or no good; he gradually lost health, and it was soon evident that serious constitutional damage was established and making sad progress. He left St. Leonards, and went some few months back to reside with a brother at Teddington. His malady, lung mischief, gradually progressed, and he succumbed on the 12th of February last.

Dr. Houghton was a man of extensive general as well as professional reading. The brightness and the warmth of his disposition are much spoken of; his kindness and generosity, and readiness to assist the poor and afflicted, if heightened by his own sufferings, were none the less inherent qualities with him. Dr. Hare, who knew him intimately, and to whom I am indebted for most of the particulars I have given of Dr. Houghton's career, has



written the following kindly lines in a memoir of him :  
“In the battle of life, so far as his health allowed, his career was one of uniform success ; and if in the battle of life he broke down and failed, the loss is ours.”

*Bernard von Langenbeck*, late Professor of Surgery in the University of Berlin, was elected a Foreign Honorary Fellow of this Society in 1856. He died on the 29th of September last, in his seventy-seventh year, from the effects of cerebral apoplexy. He studied under his uncle, the celebrated Surgeon and Anatomist at Gottingen, and here Bernard Langenbeck graduated in 1835. For a short time he practised as a Surgeon at Gottingen ; but in 1842 he was appointed Professor of Surgery at the University of Kiel, and Director of the Friedrich's Hospital, which necessitated his residing in the latter town.

In 1848 he became attached to the Army, and during the war of the Duchies against Denmark, he had the direction of the Surgical department of the Hospitals. This same year he succeeded Dieffenbach at Berlin, as Director and Professor of the Berlin Royal Surgical Clinical Department. Langenbeck was continuously employed during the great and severe wars in which Prussia was engaged against Denmark in 1864, against Austria in 1866, and lastly during the great contest with France in 1870. His experience under such circumstances could hardly be surpassed ; it may be truly said to have been immense, and great was the ability with which his work was performed, and large the results as regarded the improvements introduced into military and general surgery. He did much to advance conservative surgery by recourse to resections, he did much to introduce new methods of operating, and new operations in place of some of the old styles of treating wounds and various injuries or surgical maladies. He was a good operator, and full of resources as occasion required.

Langenbeck was Chief Surgeon on the Staff of the Emperor, and personally attached to him during the late



war carried on by Germany against France. "His name," writes Dr. von Lauer, "will never be forgotten either in the Prussian Military Medical Training Schools, or by the whole body of the Military Medical Department; but those officers of the Sanitary Corps who had the privilege of enjoying personal relations with him, will always gratefully remember the kindness of his manner and the loyalty of his friendship."

His contributions to the literature of his profession are to be found chiefly in 'Langenbeck's Archiv,' which he started, and edited for many years; a great work, which embodies most of what is surgically good in German literature during the last thirty years.

Langenbeck wished to retire from practice some few years ago, and to live at Wiesbaden, but the Emperor would not consent to this. Failing health and strength, however, compelled Langenbeck at last to quit the field of active work, and he retired to a house he had built for himself on the slope of the Nersberg.

Langenbeck had a great love for England and English Surgery. He was conspicuous amongst us in 1873, at the meeting of the British Medical Association; and again in 1881, during the meeting of the International Medical Congress. He was much loved by all who knew him, deservedly renowned as a great Surgeon, and honoured by his King and his countrymen. Such was Bernard von Langenbeck, who most highly appreciated the compliment paid him, when nominated by this Society one of our Foreign Honorary Members.

And here, gentlemen, ends the professional life-history of those whom death has removed from the muster-roll of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in the year now concluded. I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to do justice to the professional work and life of each, but have avoided, as far as was consistent with my duty, details of much that relates to the private incidents of life, or matters which concerned family history more than professional character. I trust I have not erred in so doing.



To do justice to all has been my sincere desire, and in this endeavour I have been greatly assisted by the numerous relations and friends of those of whom I have spoken, and also by the various records which have appeared from time to time in the pages of the 'Lancet' and the 'British Medical Journal.' Altogether, I think the Fellows of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society may feel satisfied that the work done by those taken from us, some silent and without display, some more conspicuous and perhaps more original, may be looked upon as surely useful to mankind, and as assisting in the advance of Medicine.

If such is our past, let us hope more for our future ; for all here must feel that though of late years a great and good work has been accomplished in the treatment of disease, a great deal more has to be effected to enable us successfully to battle with much that tends to shorten life, or that renders that life one of prolonged suffering.

In reviewing the work that has been done by those who have contributed to the 'Transactions' of the Society during the two years I have had the honour to preside in this chair, I wish to draw your attention again to some of those papers, which occupied your attention on different occasions, and which appear to me to deserve much consideration.

I first refer to the valuable contributions of Mr. Rickman Godlee, Mr. R. W. Parker, and Mr. Haward, on the treatment of cases in which kidney complications required the assistance of the Surgeon, a branch of Surgery of such comparatively recent practical consideration that it appears to me we cannot at present have too much information brought under our notice as the result of the immediate experience of our Fellows, and I am sanguine enough to hope that much more material will yet come to us to help towards good and thorough practical results.

Then, to refer to a somewhat kindred question, I may allude with satisfaction to the interesting communications



of Mr. Rivington, Mr. Jacobson, and Mr. Barwell, on the removal of urinary calculi by the supra-pubic operation—an operation which every Surgeon must acknowledge to be a great addition to our means of saving life in cases for which any other form of operation holds out but a small, if any, prospect of benefit.

Dr. Vivian Poore's valuable communication on writers' cramp and impaired writing power is again one of great practical interest, and came as a welcome addition to his previous report on the same subject—a subject which the writer has considered with the most careful observation, and the results of which as communicated to us will form a most important addition to our 'Transactions.'

I have also to refer to Mr. Knowsley Thornton's important communication on the removal of the spleen. This is an operation which has not yet been sufficiently tested to be at present pronounced as sufficiently promising in its results—not that I wish by this remark to be considered in any degree as discouraging its adoption, but rather to point out what all know who have had experience in the treatment of this enlargement, that it is most frequently connected with a constitutional condition inimical to any surgical interference—to say nothing of the amount of blood which may be lost in its removal.

I must now allude to the interesting and suggestive communication by Mr. Malcolm on the condition and management of the intestine after abdominal section, considered in the light of physiological facts, a subject in which every Surgeon must feel deep interest, and from the perusal of which communication will find ample material for thoughtful digestion.

The interesting and successful treatment of a case of occlusion of the left bronchus by a pencil cap, communicated by Dr. Cheadle and Mr. Thomas Smith, I think will be allowed to be one of the most practically important communications we have received this last session. Such cases, as we are all aware, are by no means common, nor simple to deal with when met in practice: and the



the publication of it in our 'Transactions' will be a valuable addition to the surgical literature of this subject.

The case of intraperitoneal rupture of the bladder, related by Mr. Walsham, and treated by abdominal section, with recovery, is again one of the more recent and one of the most satisfactory advances in Surgery of the present day. A similar case has been recorded by Mr. Timothy Holmes, and was the first instance, I believe, of this injury being thus successfully treated in England.

I cannot conclude this reference to some of the work of the two past sessions without drawing attention to those most interesting cases which were shown us by Mr. Arthur Barker, on the occasion of our last meeting. These were two cases in which abscess of the brain had been successfully dealt with by Mr. Barker by trephining the skull, and evacuating the abscess. Such results may truly be termed the best triumphs of modern surgery. The exactness of diagnosis, and the success of treatment were all that could be desired. Medical and physiological teaching and practical skill could not have desired a more satisfactory result. These patients were literally rescued from a certain and early death, by thoughtful consideration and care adapted to skilful and judicious treatment.

However much we may have reason to congratulate ourselves on the work of our Society, and on the advancement of many sections of medicine and surgery, we know too well how much yet remains to be done in every department of our profession—how much in the prevention, in the treatment, in the removal of disease. I avoid the term "cure" as inapplicable to the results of most, if not of all of our dealings with maladies. But there is still a large field of work for the young labourer in medicine in which an abundant harvest may be gathered by those who will apply their talents and observations to the investigation of any section of medical study. Cancer and tubercle offer abundant materials for future investigation, and will well reward the time and attention devoted to it. Is it too much to hope that some one hereafter



may be able to point to the successful and sure treatment of one or both? We hope not ; but in work alone can that end be obtained. This Society has long and well encouraged work in every branch of medicine. I would ask, can it not do something more towards the encouragement of work, in respect to these formidable enemies to human life, that might tend towards arrest or removal?

It only now remains for me to mention how highly I appreciate the honour that was conferred on me when you elected me your President, and to thank you for the kindness and courtesy with which I have been ever received since I occupied this chair. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Members of Council for their support and attention on all occasions of our meetings, and last, though not least, to express my best thanks to our Secretaries, Dr. Cheadle and Mr. Howard Marsh, for their help and cordial assistance throughout the tenure of my office.



