

Address of Sir Edward H. Sieveking, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., President of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, at the annual meeting, March 1st, 1889.

Contributors

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ADDRESS

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OF

SIR EDWARD H. SIEVEKING, M.D.,

LL.D., F.R.C.P.,

PRESIDENT

OF THE

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON,

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1st, 1889.



LONDON:

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ADLARD AND SON, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

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FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY,—When I first took the Presidential Chair after the last Annual Meeting of our Society, I naturally felt prompted to express to you my appreciation of the honour you had conferred upon me, by placing me in this position, as well as my fear that I should only follow my predecessors, all of whom belong to the class of men that have helped to advance medical science, *haud passibus æquis*. The only point in which I claim to be equal to them is in my loyalty to you, and to our common professional interests. The custom of the Society forbade my expressing myself in this sense at the time, and you will, I hope, pardon me if I take this opportunity, before entering upon the special topics to which the Annual Presidential Address is ordinarily devoted, of tendering to you my best thanks for electing me to preside over your most interesting meetings, together with an expression of the hope that my conduct

in the Council and in the General Assemblies of the Society, has caused none of you to regret his vote in my behalf.

Thanks to the zeal of the Fellows, the traditions of the Society have, during the past year, been well maintained; and I have no fear of any criticisms that may be passed upon the work that has been performed, as evidenced by the 'Proceedings' and the 'Transactions.' Our numbers show a steady increase, while the attendances at the meetings, and the discussions to which the papers gave rise, have been extremely satisfactory. The Library forms a more and more attractive feature of our Society, while the convenience of our reading-room and the improvement in the ventilation, of which I can speak feelingly and from a painful recollection of its former condition, leave little to be desired. Whether any important alteration in our habitat can be made, is a question for which, later on, I shall have to ask your attention, as it is one which your Council have already had under serious consideration. I am confident that nothing that may add to the position and progress of the Society, and that our Treasurers can sanction, will at any time be neglected.

The first duty that we have now to perform is the sorrowful one of passing in review the losses that we have sustained by the sickle of the universal Reaper, and to pay a tribute of respect and affection to those who have preceded us to our eternal home.

As far as the Summer Session is concerned, the deaths among our ranks have fortunately been below the average in number. The first among our departed Fellows whom I have to mention, and whose death took place in the south of France, at Cannes, on March 4th of last year, is *Mr. Thomas Blizzard Curling*, who up to a few years before his decease occupied a prominent position in London, until advancing age and infirmity caused him to abandon practice, and to seek for rejuvenescence in change of scene and climate. For fifty-one years a zealous member of this Society, Mr. Curling, beginning with the Secretaryship in 1845, successively filled all the offices of Councillor,

Treasurer, Vice-President and President, which last post he occupied in 1871 and 1872, while in the intervals he worked on the Library Committee, and contributed as many as thirteen papers to the 'Transactions.' As a referee Mr. Curling was appointed no less than five times; the last time succeeding the period of his Presidency, which fact is strong proof of the estimation in which his judgment was to the very last held by his contemporaries.

Mr. Curling was born in Tavistock Place, London, on January 1st, 1811, his father being Secretary to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, a post of considerable dignity and emolument. After receiving his education at Manor House, Chiswick, he entered the medical profession, and at the early age of twenty-one, through the influence of his uncle, Sir William Blizard, was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the London Hospital, in which capacity he served for many years before he was made full Surgeon in 1849. His eminence as a Surgeon was soon recognised by the profession, and although his practice became by force of circumstances somewhat special, he always exhibited a thorough appreciation of all subjects bearing upon scientific medicine, as proved by his numerous writings, a list of which now lies before me. In 1859, Mr. Curling was appointed Examiner in Surgery to the University of London, having previously, in 1850, become a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1864 he was elected on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in 1873 he filled the distinguished post of President of that body. Here, as elsewhere, he enjoyed the perfect confidence of his colleagues, on account of his zealous activity and conscientiousness, and the great interest he took in all his work. In the history of the Royal College of Surgeons it would be interesting to note that Mr. Curling was one of the first batch of three hundred Fellows elected under the altered constitution of the College in 1843.

Mr. Curling's first literary work is dated 1832, when he published fifty cases from his experience at the London Hospital in the now defunct 'Medical Gazette.' This

paper was followed by others—"On the Cranium," "On Paraplegic Affections of the Bladder," "On *Trichina Spiralis*," "On Hydrophobia"—and in 1836 Mr. Curling obtained the Jacksonian Prize for his essay on Tetanus. His work from that time to the end of his practical career was multifarious, but always conscientious and valuable, and no history of British Medicine would be complete without alluding to the influence Mr. Curling exerted beneficially in many directions. His largest literary efforts were, 'A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Testicle,' first published in 1843, and his 'Observations on the Diseases of the Rectum' in 1851; both went through numerous editions, and were translated into foreign languages. There are not, probably, many English works which have had the honour conferred upon them of being translated into Chinese, as was the case with the first of the two just mentioned. Dr. Manson, in 1866, accomplished this Herculean labour. Time would not allow me to enter here into a detailed criticism of Mr. Curling's work, but it cannot fail to be interesting to the Fellows of the Society to be reminded of the titles of the chief papers which that gentleman contributed—be it remembered under the high sanction of the Council—to their 'Transactions.' The elder Fellows will doubtless recall the wide impression that many of these made upon the profession at the time of publication. The twentieth volume of the 'Transactions' (1837) contains Mr. Curling's "Observations on some Forms of Atrophy of Bone." Soon after we find "A Case of Congenital Absence of the Pericardium;" then a paper "On a Rare Species of Hydatid, *Echinococcus*, in the Human Liver;" and in 1842 appeared the important observations "On Acute Ulcerations of the Duodenum in Cases of Burn." Passing over minor contributions we come, in 1850, to "Two Cases of Absence of the Thyroid Body, connected with Defective Cerebral Development," in which Mr. Curling, according to Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, appeared to anticipate the more recent teaching regarding myxoedema. Mr. Curling's last contribution to the 'Medico-Chirurgical Transactions' was made in

1860, and bore the title, "Inquiry into the Treatment of Congenital Imperfections of the Rectum by Operation, founded on an Analysis of 100 Cases."

As a teacher Mr. Curling was highly esteemed at the London Hospital. Punctual and careful himself, he was strict in demanding care and precision in his students, many of whom survive to thank him for the doctrines and the practice he inculcated.

Mr. Curling was a man of commanding stature, and though not endowed with the faculty of being all things to all men, was a staunch and sincere friend, whom to know was to trust and to honour. Of his work I have endeavoured to give you a brief outline, and I am satisfied that the younger generation of medical men may study his professional contributions to science with a certainty of having their emulation and ardour stimulated, and their labours guided, by a safe and profitable example. Those who had the advantage of his friendship will continue to remember him with esteem and affection.¹

The same month in which Mr. Curling departed this life is marked by the death of another Fellow, *Dr. Nicolas Parker*, who joined our Society in 1847. He was born on July 4th, 1821, and entered the London Hospital as a pupil, in 1839. He appears to have been a zealous worker, as when he was nominated for election into the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society he is described as holding the appointment of Microscopical Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy at the London Medical School. His paper of recommendation was signed by all the leading members of the staff of his School. From the same document we gather that at that time he was M.B. of the London University, which degree he took in 1844, the degree of M.D. following in 1847, on each of which occasions his name appeared in the first division. In 1859 Dr. Parker was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1851 Dr.

The 'Athenæum' for April 14th, 1888, states that the late T. B. Curling, F.R.S., bequeathed £200 free of legacy duty to the Scientific Relief Fund of the Royal Society.

Parker was elected Assistant Physician and in 1863 Physician to the London Hospital, and from 1856 lectured there on Medicine, in conjunction with Dr. Little, for several years. A gentleman, now on the staff of the London Hospital, who attended his lectures, reports Dr. Parker to have been a most excellent lecturer and teacher, and a most amiable, courteous, and pleasant gentleman. His contributions to medical literature are to be found in the twenty-second and twenty-third volumes (1850 and 1851) of the 'Medical Gazette,' one entitled "Contributions to Psychological Medicine," the other, "Contributions to the Pathology of the Nervous System." He is stated to have resided in those days, and to have practised, in Finsbury Square. In 1866 Dr. Parker resigned his appointments at the Hospital on account of failing health; and, being possessed of means, resided for some years in France. The outburst of the Franco-German war caused him to leave that country, and in 1874 he took up his abode at Ramsgate, where he remained, paying occasional visits to London and the Continent, till his death. In 1883 he was stricken with right-sided paralysis. It affected his speech for a short time only, but he never recovered the use of his arm and leg. I am informed that his intellect was unimpaired to the last, when, after a six weeks' illness, he succumbed to pneumonia, at the age of sixty-six. Like that of his successor in this obituary record, Dr. Parker's name had not been widely known, though from what has been gathered concerning them both, they have by no means spent unprofitable lives.

Dr. Christopher Thomas Richardson, of Nelson Crescent, Ramsgate, died there on the 4th April of the past year, at the age of seventy-three. He became a Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in 1852. It may interest those members of our Society who are fond of antiquarian minutiae to be informed that his recommendation paper was one of the first to be presented in the printed form; previously the wording was the same,¹ but the whole was in

¹ The last written recommendation for that of the Fellowship was that of

manuscript. I have learned by this inquiry that all recommendation papers are scrupulously preserved in our archives, and they thus form a collection of autographs which many may like to examine.

Dr. Richardson took the degree of M.B. at Cambridge in 1844, became M.R.C.P. in 1859, and, according to the Medical Directory, was Physician to the Blenheim Street Infirmary and the Metropolitan Free Hospital. Besides being a Fellow of our Society he was also a Fellow of the Geological Society. I am unable to inform you when he withdrew to Ramsgate, but it is evident that, after leaving London, he continued to be fond of scientific pursuits, for he is reported as having been President of the Ramsgate Scientific Association.

The following particulars are communicated by a friend of Dr. Richardson's of many years' standing:—He is stated to have belonged to an old Westmoreland family, and in consequence of the early death of his father to have been adopted by his uncle, a north-country rector, who apprenticed him to a medical practitioner in the Borough, and entered him at St. Thomas's Hospital, which in those days occupied the site now filled by the London Bridge Station. Dr. Richardson never seems to have sought for practice as a general physician, but to have attended specially to lunacy; he was always a student and a man of very varied attainments. Ramsgate appears to have had special attractions for him, and his residence in the county of Kent caused him to write a book, of which I do not possess the title, relating to that part of the country. Dr. Richardson, as I am informed, was regarded by those who knew him as a pleasant companion, a man of cultured taste, and a Christian gentleman.

The month of May was fatal to a gentleman who for many years was reputed for his large general practice in the West-end, and was probably known to many among my audience: I refer to *Mr. Walter T. Bryant*. Mr. Bryant

Dr. Cutler, of Spa, 27th April, 1852. The first printed one was that of Mr. A. G. Field, November 9th, 1852.

died in the seventy-sixth year of his age at his residence, Highwood near Reading. His first teacher was his father, who practised in the Edgware Road, long before the neighbourhood had become as populous as it is now. At the age of twenty-seven he married the daughter of Major Parris, and entered into partnership with his father. Having passed the examination of the Apothecaries' Company in 1839, he became M.R.C.S. in 1840, and F.R.C.S. in 1858. In 1870 Mr. Bryant obtained the Licence of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. About this time he appears to have taken up his residence near Reading, and only to have visited London on three or four days in the week, but even this proved eventually too much for his strength, and he succumbed to senile gangrene and exhaustion.

Mr. Bryant was elected a Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in 1855. His biographers¹ state that "his ingenuity in contriving means of relieving pain and in the general management of the sick room was of striking value to him; but probably the true key to his success as a practitioner was his devotion to the interests of his case. No trouble, no fatigue, no pains, were too great for him, if only he thought there was a chance of relieving the sufferer, and this devotion was amply reciprocated by those he attended." Mr. Bryant is stated to have been naturally of a cheerful disposition, ever welcome at the bedside, and in general society always making his mark by the large fund of general information and anecdote which he possessed.

Dr. Thomas Harrington Tuke is the next Fellow of this Society in my obituary list; he was called away on the 9th June. He was one whom all who knew him, and they were very numerous, will recall with genuine affection and respect, the more so as

"E'en his failings leaned to Virtue's side,"

for his latter days were clouded by pecuniary difficulties, which are attributable to an unselfish generosity. Dr.

¹ 'Brit. Med. Journal' and 'Lancet,' May 26th, 1888.

Harrington Tuke, who is not to be confounded with the English family of the same name and distinguished in the same paths of medical science, was of Irish descent, his ancestors having long lived in Tralee in the county of Kerry. His father, Dr. Edward Francis Tuke, migrated across the Channel, and the subject of this notice was born at Bristol in 1828 on the 13th June; he was therefore within four days of his sixtieth year at the time of his death. He was buried at Chiswick on his birthday.

Dr. Harrington Tuke, after a preliminary education at Kensington School, obtained his medical education at St. George's Hospital, and passed the College of Surgeons in 1847; he obtained the degree of M.D. at St. Andrew's in 1849, and in 1868 had the honour of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London conferred upon him. In conjunction with his mother, who is stated to have been a lady of remarkable administrative powers, Dr. Harrington Tuke, after his father's death in 1846, took charge of a private lunatic asylum, the Manor House at Chiswick, an institution which throughout enjoyed an excellent reputation. Dr. Tuke had made special studies under the celebrated Dr. Conolly at Hanwell Asylum, the chief promoter of the non-restraint system in the treatment of lunacy, and his intimacy with that benefactor of the human race, and his subsequent alliance with his family, cannot have failed to recommend him both to the profession and to the general public.

Dr. Harrington Tuke was elected to the Fellowship of this Society in 1862; was Honorary Secretary of the Medico-Psychological Association from 1864 to 1872, and its President in 1873. His literary efforts, as might be expected from his entire devotion to mental disorders, were confined to the discussion of questions relating to them. His papers all bear the impress of a well-stored and highly educated medical man, and may well be re-read at the present day. They are almost entirely confined to the earlier volumes of the 'Journal of Mental Science,' the fourth and fifth volumes of which contain articles from his

pen on the "Use of Warm and Cold Baths in the Treatment of Insanity." They are followed in successive volumes by eight articles on General Paralysis, in which he most elaborately and clearly discusses this formidable disease, and these may be regarded as constituting his chief claim to literary distinction. Other papers on the legal view of Insanity (in which he particularly discusses the case of Constance Kent, which at the time was one of intense interest to the entire community), and on Monomania (where he shows that the proverbial differences of medical men are exceeded by those of the lawyers), deserve attention and record; his literary efforts appear to have terminated with the Presidential Address which he delivered in 1873. The various communications that are at my disposal all coincide in speaking well of Dr. Harrington Tuke, dwelling upon his geniality, good nature, and liberality, and that verdict I do not doubt that all surviving friends willingly endorse.

Few Fellows of our Society have presented a more commanding figure for many years to wanderers in the West-end of London than the bearer of the next name that it is my duty to bring before your notice, *Dr. George Thompson Gream*, who, after having retired for some time from the fatigue of a large practice, died at Brighton of apoplexy, at the age of seventy-six, on the 20th of last July. Dr. Gream, the son of a clergyman, received his medical education at St. George's Hospital, and commenced what proved to be a very successful career as an accoucheur, in 1836. He subsequently took the degree of M.D. at St. Andrew's, joined the College of Physicians as a member in 1859, and received the honour of the Fellowship in 1867. In 1846 he became a Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and served on the Council in 1863; in 1861 he joined the Obstetrical Society of London, of which he was a Vice-President from 1864 to 1866. His professional position was marked by his appointment as Physician-accoucheur to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, while his social status was characterised by his being a

Deputy-Lieutenant of Middlesex, a Justice of the Peace for Hampshire, and by his being a Knight of the Order of the Crown of Prussia. Dr. Gream never made any claims to literary distinction, and I have no record or recollection of his appearing in print, except as a controversialist, on the subject of the use of anæsthetics in childbirth, his views being strenuously discountenanced by Sir James Simpson, of Edinburgh. Dr. Gream was essentially the fashionable accoucheur of the day, especially after the death of his friend Sir Charles Locock, and he had the distinguished honour of attending the Crown-Princess (now the Empress-Queen Frederick) of Germany in Berlin during some of her confinements. He was a man of great stature and decidedly handsome, and at the same time of engaging and polished manners, which did not prevent his maintaining his independence of judgment. Having no family Dr. Gream was able to show extensive hospitality to his friends, and there must be yet many among you who remember how much at home he looked as a charioteer in his curricule, handling the reins and whip with grace and dexterity, in the crowded streets or parks of the metropolis.

Having thus briefly adverted to the losses the Society has sustained during the past Summer Session, I may be permitted to glance at the fruits that have ripened during the same period. It is impossible to peruse the papers that have been admitted into the 'Transactions' for 1888 without feeling that they mark a distinct progress in the march of medical science; while the dignity, knowledge, and good taste with which the discussions have been always carried on appear to me to be, as they ought, characteristic of such a brotherhood as ours, established for the promotion of medical knowledge and of the best physical interests of the community. One of the most important events that I may be allowed to put on special record is the award by the Society of the Marshall Hall Prize to Dr. Walter Holbrook Gaskell, F.R.S., for his neurological work, done during the preceding five years.

This prize was founded in 1872 as a memorial of one of the greatest neurologists of the last generation, and it is given quinquennially after anxious deliberation of the Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society "for the best original work done during the previous five years and recorded in the English language in anatomical, physiological, or pathological research, relative to the nervous system." Such a prize as this appears to me to be free from all the objections that may be justly raised against rewards that are based upon competition; and it at once ensures the perpetuation of a great name, and is a high honour to the recipient. I cannot resist the temptation of quoting to you the words of Dr. Ferrier, who, in 1883, occupied the same position as Dr. Gaskell did last year, with reference to Dr. Marshall Hall's claims to the grateful recognition of all future generations of medical men. Flourens and Marshall Hall were contemporaries, friends, and collaborators in the same field of science, and while associating their names, Dr. Ferrier observes: "If at the distance of fifty odd years we compare the relative stability of the work done by these great men, that of Marshall Hall on the spinal cord, and that of Flourens on the cerebral hemispheres, we find that the doctrines enunciated by Marshall Hall, modified perhaps as to detail, and further extended by the numerous researches of recent years, are in all essential points those which still prevail, and show no signs of failing; while those of Flourens, which have also exercised an enormous influence on clinical medicine and pathology—what shall we say of them?"

Whether any of Dr. Gaskell's conclusions will stand the test of time and further research, I may safely leave to my successors to determine. In the meantime, we may thank him cordially for his observations on the anabolic and catabolic divisions of the nervous system, and his discovery of the difference of structure of the two kinds of nerves subservient to these functions, together with his researches into the relation of the sympathetic with the cerebral ner-

vous system. Whatever modifications may result from future investigations, the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society will ever claim it as a distinction that it has had it in its power publicly to show its recognition of distinguished merit by awarding the Marshall Hall Prize to such labourers in the cause of science as Dr. Gaskell, Dr. Ferrier, and Dr. Hughlings Jackson.

We have no prize to give for eminence in Surgery. Were there one for the work of the year there might be a difficulty in deciding, where there has been so much that is excellent, who the holder should be. Far be it from me to "rush in where angels fear to tread," but I cannot refuse myself the pleasure, and I trust it may be with your approbation, of alluding to one work, a true medico-chirurgical offspring, which our last Summer Session brought forth, under the auspices of Dr. Gowers and Mr. Victor Horsley.

No better illustration could be given than this case of the value of scientific co-operation, of which the Winter Session has also afforded an excellent instance in the paper on Actinomycosis, by Dr. Douglas Powell, Messrs. Godlee, Taylor, and Crookshank. Dr. Gowers' and Mr. Horsley's case distinctly marks the progress which has been made during the present quarter of a century, both in precise diagnosis and in the perfection of our surgical resources. The last volume of our 'Transactions' enables every Fellow to judge of the value of the various contributions, and it would be a work of supererogation, if not an act of impertinence, on my part, to go into any further critical detail; but I could not with propriety occupy this chair and refer to the past Summer Session, without advertising to evidence afforded in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of a marked advance in scientific medicine, an advance which but a short time back was stated, on high authority, to be "beyond the range of practical surgery."

The commencement of our Winter Session has brought sorrow to the hearts of all who were on terms of friendship

with *Dr. Edward Headlam Greenhow*, a physician of great ability and industry, who died suddenly, while on a visit to town from his country residence at Reigate, on the 22nd November, 1888. My first acquaintance with Dr. Greenhow dates more than thirty years back, when he first assisted me by contributing some valuable articles to the 'British and Foreign Medical and Chirurgical Review,' of which I at that time was Editor. I may be permitted to mention especially one on "The Local Causes of Cholera," and another on "Medical Sanitary Inquiries," in the volumes for 1857. To this Society's 'Transactions' Dr. Greenhow contributed three papers: the first, on "Brassfounders' Ague," in 1862; the second, "A Case of Congenital Imperfection of the Mammæ, Sexual Organs, and Sternum in a Woman, aged twenty-two," in 1864; and the third, on "Abdominal Aneurism successfully treated by Proximal Pressure of the Aorta," in 1873. But these papers by no means represented the most important of Dr. Greenhow's labours. He worked as a valuable coadjutor of Sir John Simon, whose Reports as Medical Officer of the Privy Council contain several papers by Dr. Greenhow, while separate works on diphtheria and on Addison's disease, with numerous contributions to the weekly literature of Medicine, have constituted him an authority on many points of permanent interest to our profession.

Dr. Greenhow was born at North Shields in 1814, where his father was in practice, and where he received his earliest education. After studying at Edinburgh and Montpellier, he joined his father in practice at Tynemouth, where he took special interest in sanitary questions, which his position as member of the Town Council and as Chairman of the Board of Health, gave him peculiar opportunities for prosecuting. Numerous sanitary improvements in North Shields and Tynemouth resulted from Dr. Greenhow's labours, while the experience he gained there proved of great value when he entered upon the larger sphere of work, which his removal to London, in 1852, opened for him. Before settling in the Metropolis, Dr. Greenhow

graduated at Aberdeen; he then passed the examination for the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, of which body he was elected a Fellow in 1859. He delivered the Croonian Lectures at the College in 1875, taking for his subject Addison's disease; in 1879 he was appointed a Member of the Council, and in 1880 and 1881 he filled the office of Censor. His previous labours in the North thoroughly fitted him for a post, the first of its kind created in London, to which he was appointed in 1856, at the instigation of Sir John Simon, that of Lecturer on Public Health at St. Thomas's Hospital. Dr. Greenhow's sanitary work continued to be prosecuted under the auspices of Sir John Simon, and led to the passing of the Public Health Act of 1858. The numerous papers from his pen, published in the reports of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council of that time, are a standing evidence of his wisdom and research, and take high rank as scientific and literary productions. I have the permission of Sir John Simon to quote the following remarks, which he has kindly sent me in reply to an inquiry of mine relating to Dr. Greenhow's work:

"The manner, in my opinion, was as good as could have been, skilful, well considered, laborious, complete; and I may add, the value of it to the public service, for purposes of an administrative kind, seemed to me (as I at the time officially represented) of the highest importance." I can only make a passing allusion to Dr. Greenhow's contributions of the most valuable character to our knowledge of diphtheria, a disease which was scarcely known in England before 1855; to the causes of diarrhoea in some parts of the country; to the prevalence of lung diseases in certain industries, and to the causes of the excessive mortality of young children in our manufacturing population, to indicate the direction of his labours in connexion with the Medical Officer of the Privy Council. These papers are all worth careful study by medical men generally, and more especially by those who aspire to exercise a beneficial influence on the community as Public Health Officers.

Dr. Greenhow's appointment as Lecturer on Public Health, Joint Lecturer on Forensic Medicine in 1861, and, shortly after, as Assistant Physician to Middlesex Hospital, gave a new direction to his labours, while it showed that his work was receiving general recognition. This was still further marked by his election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1870. In 1881 and 1882 the Clinical Society, which he assisted much in establishing, honoured itself by electing him their President; and, after filling this post, Dr. Greenhow quitted London, and retired to Reigate, but not to idleness, for he still retained two appointments which required his occasional presence in London. It was in connexion with one of these visits, when he was known to be in feeble health, that the fatal stroke overtook him. I cannot better sum up these brief remarks on a well-spent and most useful professional life, than in recalling the words with which a distinguished colleague of his concludes an account of his work:

"To the last Dr. Greenhow retained a warm affection for his former surroundings, and nothing delighted him more in the evening of his days than to tell his battles over again, or learn what was going on at institutions with which he was connected. If any man can be said to have entered fully into the spirit and labours of professional life, or to have worked with all his power in his sphere, it can be truly said of him. It is only when we look back through the long years of his fruitful and busy life, when we remember the qualities of perseverance and energy, the love of method and discipline, and the attachment he had to Medicine, that we can estimate how full his life was and how much he accomplished. He at least must be admitted to have earned his rest."¹

Dr. Greenhow was twice married. His first wife, the widow of William Barnard, Esq., died in 1857, leaving one son, now Vicar of Earsdon. His second wife was the daughter of the celebrated political economist and Member of Parliament, Joseph Hume. She died in 1878, and

¹ Dr. Coupland, 'Lancet,' December 1st, 1888.

two daughters survive to mourn the loss of both parents. Shakespeare's words, so often used to express our feelings with reference to departed friends, convey a special truth when applied to our late Fellow, Dr. Greenhow :

" His life was gentle ; and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world : *This was a man !*"

On the 5th Dec., 1888, *Mr. Benjamin Mallam*, of Rose Bank, Exeter, whose Fellowship of our Society dates from 1876, departed this life at the age of sixty-three. Owing to ill-health he had retired from a large general practice for ten years prior to his decease, and I am indebted to Dr. Lewis Shapter, who attended him during his long illness (progressive muscular atrophy), for the chief points in the brief memoir of Mr. Mallam's career. It appears that he was the son of a medical man, and was professionally educated at St. George's Hospital, to which, as to his early teachers, he was much attached. It was only necessary to mention the name of Keate to rouse all Mallam's enthusiasm for his old instructor, of whom he would say that he was a grand Surgeon, but that he had an unfortunate trick of "taking a comb out of his pocket, to stimulate thought on any case requiring more than usual tact and judgment. This proceeding was one day evidenced in the presence of the King, and the story goes that the act materially influenced the Royal favour." I am assured that the anecdote is authentic. After obtaining the Membership of the College of Surgeons in 1848, and the License of the Apothecaries' Company in 1850, Mallam did good work in the neighbourhood of London ; subsequently, he bought a practice in Frome, in Somersetshire, and in 1862 moved to the neighbourhood of Camden Road, London, where he enjoyed an extensive practice till his health failed him. He appears to have been of an inventive turn of mind, for a trocar for ovarian dropsy, a splint for fractured patella, and an instantaneous vaccinator, are among the appliances attributed to him, and, as I am informed, still

known by his name. He published 'Hints to Mothers and Nurses,' 'The Approach of Cholera,' and 'The Therapeutics of Phthisis.' My informant concludes his notes on Mr. Mallam with the remarks: "Always loyal to his profession, grateful to his teachers, willing to assist others and to impart practical guidance, Benjamin Mallam made true friends, and has left his work, enthusiasm, and kindness of heart for remembrance." What better epitaph can be desired?

The three Fellows whose names I have next to add to the melancholy death catalogue of the year, Dr. George Duff, Dr. Benjamin Ridge, and Mr. William Oliver Chalk, were all elected to the Fellowship of the Society in 1845.

Dr. Duff died at Elgin, where he had practised since 1856, on the 11th January, 1889. I gather from a long biographical notice of him given in the 'Elgin Courier' that he was a very prominent and highly esteemed descendant from an ancient and influential family in Morayshire, and that as late as last New Year's Day he was in good health. Shortly afterwards he was attacked by erysipelas, followed by pneumonia, to which he succumbed. Dr. Duff graduated M.A. at Aberdeen in 1838, and in 1841 took the degree of M.D. at Edinburgh. He commenced practice in Genoa, then for a few years was domiciled in London, and finally settled at Elgin. Here for many years he was Physician to Gray's Hospital and to Anderson's Institution, and the appreciation which he enjoyed among his medical brethren is shown by the fact that he was elected President of the Northern Branch of the British Medical Association. His fellow-citizens proved the esteem in which he was held by them, by electing him to various civic offices, and his many excellent qualities of head and heart were largely dwelt upon after his death in the pulpits of Elgin. His age at death was seventy.

Mr. William Oliver Chalk, of Nottingham Terrace, Regent's Park, and of Vine Cottage, Norwood Green, died at a very advanced age on the 21st November, 1888. He was born in the Cathedral precincts, Canterbury, in 1803,

obtained the Licence of the Apothecaries' Company in 1826, and the Membership of the College of Surgeons in 1827, after going through his curriculum at Middlesex Hospital during the time that Sir Charles Bell was attached to it. Before settling as a practitioner in London Mr. Chalk passed a year at Paris, studiously attending the cliniques in that town. I am informed that Mr. Chalk was particularly struck with the mortality of phthisical patients in the Parisian hospitals, and that his interest was specially aroused with regard to the treatment of this and allied affections, which led him early to recognise the value of cod-liver oil in their treatment. After his return from Paris Mr. Chalk was appointed House Surgeon to the Margate Infirmary for Scrofula, where he used his opportunities especially for the study of morbus coxæ. His experience in this disease is embodied in a series of interesting articles contained in the twenty-seventh volume of the 'London Medical Gazette;' but cod-liver oil does not receive any mention in these papers. He appears early to have appreciated its value in treatment, for soon after the publication of Dr. Hughes Bennett's memoir on the subject, Mr. Chalk wrote two interesting papers embodying his experience in the 'Medical Gazette' of 1843.¹ These papers are dated from 3, Nottingham Terrace, which remained his town residence to the termination of his life. Although engaged in a large general practice, and during the last twenty years of his life the proprietor of a private lunatic asylum at Norwood, Mr. Chalk found time to contribute various papers to medical literature. Thus in 1852 we find in the 'Medical Times and Gazette' an interesting illustrated communication on "The Blood-vessels and Trabeculæ of the Spleen," in which the author particularly combats Kölliker's teaching with regard to the structure and purpose of the trabeculæ. The 'Transactions' of the Pathological Society contain in vols. ii, viii, ix and x papers on "Cancerous Ulceration of the Foot," on "Partial Dislocation of the Lower Jaw from an Enlarged Tongue," on "Morbus

¹ See pages 414 and 441.

Coxæ," and on "Colloid Cancer of the Sigmoid Flexure of the Colon complicated with Incarcerated Hernia," all of which may be perused at the present day with interest. In 1872 and 1873 Mr. Chalk was a Member of Council of this Society.

Though a student throughout his life, Mr. Chalk, as I am informed by his friend Dr. Sidney Coupland, was not readily impressed by some of the doctrines of modern schools. He appears specially to have distrusted the theories connected with the cell doctrine, in its application to physiology and pathology, as he declined to accept modern observation upon the structure and nature of tubercle. But for all that, as I am told, "his practice was neither stereotyped nor antiquated. It was at any rate successful, and that he was open to new ideas in this respect may be seen in the fact, that within the last year of his life he was engaged in preparing a paper on whooping-cough (from which he himself suffered when eighty-three years old) and its treatment; his view (which he demonstrated in many cases) being that the ulceration of the orifice of Wharton's duct had much to do with the disease, and that the most appropriate treatment was the frequent use of the sulphurous acid spray."

Mr. Chalk was twice married. His first wife was the youngest daughter of Mr. Hill, of Park Place, Regent's Park; his second, who survives him, was the second daughter of Dr. Stevenson Bushman, formerly editor of the 'Medical Gazette,' and for many years connected with Laverstock House, Salisbury. It was not till within a year of his death that Mr. Chalk showed signs of failing health, and after some suffering, an attack of hemiplegia, followed by coma, ended a long and meritorious life. It is pleasant, in concluding this notice, to reproduce the words with which his friend Dr. Sidney Coupland terminates the obituary notice he communicated to the 'Lancet' at the time of his death:—"In him the profession has lost an upright, honest, and faithful member; one who, always genial and kindly, was singularly unassuming and devoid

of self-seeking. He was content to pursue the even tenour of his way in doing good to others, oftentimes without any reward but the gratitude of those whom he benefited. In this, his life will serve as a bright example to those who come after him."

The last Fellow but one of whom an obituary notice is due to you is *Dr. Benjamin Ridge*, whose death took place on January 9th, 1889.

All inquiries that have been initiated regarding *Dr. Ridge's* antecedents have been fruitless, and I am reduced to confine the brief statement I have to make regarding him to a quotation from the 'Medical Directory.' It appears that *Dr. Ridge* was educated at Guy's, that he became a L.S.A. and M.R.C.S. in 1836, and F.R.C.S. in 1854. He enjoys the title of M.D. in our list of Fellows, but it is not given in the 'Directory,' and we do not therefore know where he took his degree. He was the author of a work on "Glossology," and several other contributions to medical literature. *Dr. Ridge* never filled any office in our Society.

Only this evening the death of *Dr. Samuel Hill* has been announced to me, and I can therefore only give the following brief record of his career. He was born near Lurgan, in Ireland, in the year 1830. He began his professional studies at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin, in 1847, and obtained a license in Midwifery at the Rotunda Hospital in 1849, and became resident officer to the Whitworth Medical and Hardwick Fever Hospital. He became a Licentiate of the King's College of Surgeons, Ireland, in 1851, Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1860, and Doctor of Medicine at St. Andrew's in 1862.

During several epidemics of cholera and typhus fever in Belfast *Dr. Hill* was employed by the Government, and the skill and zeal he displayed in these trying times did much to alleviate the distress. He came over to England in 1852, and after spending two years in Gravesend, settled in Mecklenburgh Square, where he continued in active

practice until the day of his death, which took place suddenly at 2 a.m. on Sunday last, 24th February, 1889. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1867.

The sketch of the immediate past of our Society, which I have offered to you, seems to me, like all retrospects, to justify a brief consideration of our future. I trust that you will not accuse me of a *cacoëthes loquendi*, due to the proverbial garrulity of old age, if I touch upon some points that my long acquaintance with the Society, my recent experience of its working, and a general view of the advances of our profession during the last quarter of a century, appear to suggest. Should I say anything that you disapprove of I hope that you will see in my remarks nothing else than a proof of my ardent desire for the welfare and progress of our much-cherished Society.

We are all, and I think justly so, very proud of our Library. It probably may claim to be one of the most perfect and most useful collections of medical works either within or beyond the Empire. Its continual increase has already created physical difficulties in its housing, and the lapse of time is not likely to diminish them. An accident, however, during the past summer revealed to me that there is a decided lacuna in our Library. With another friend I determined to explore Epsom Wells, to ascertain whether any traces still existed of the once-famed waters and of the assembly and gambling rooms which in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries attracted the sober citizen no less than the gay and giddy world of fashion. A book-loving son of mine found in a second-hand bookstall a very well-written work on Epsom which I studied before I undertook the trip.¹ But in our Library I could find little to help me, excepting the treatises by Grew and Saunders, the former of whom, at the end of the seventeenth century, wrote enthusiastically about sulphate of magnesia as the "*Sal Nobilissimus*;" the latter, at the beginning of the

¹ A book published anonymously in 1825, but written, as the authorities of the British Museum inform me, by Mr. H. Pownall.

present century, only refers to Epsom as a place that has lost its repute. A recent number of the 'Graphic,' no less than a well-known novel of Messrs. Besant and Rice, show what an important history the place had for about a hundred years. On further inquiry I have ascertained that as regards the mineral waters, the climatology and the local sanitary conditions of our country, our otherwise excellent Library is far from complete. I would ask whether this is right? Supposing an intelligent foreigner to visit us with the desire for information upon any one of the 250 places in Great Britain and Ireland mentioned in Osann's great work,¹ and to be told that we, professing to have one of the completest libraries of medical science, cannot fulfil his wishes, what would he think of us?² But still more, is it proper that we, who scour the world to find means of cure and recovery, should be unacquainted with the many adjuvants of health that a bountiful Providence has provided for us at home? When I was a young practitioner some knowledge of foreign watering places enabled me to bear with equanimity the covert or direct objection to people being sent abroad to benefit by waters that we do not possess, and I still hold that we have nothing to equal in character and efficacy some of the springs on the other side of the Channel and German Ocean that are known to you all; but I maintain that every year many patients are subjected to the fatigue, the bad food, and the stinks to be met with so often abroad, who would be infinitely better off with the home comforts, the cleanliness, and the careful medical supervision to be found in a well-selected British locality. We cannot here look for Government patronage and control of our health resorts—the more is it the duty

¹ "Physikalisch-medicinische Darstellung der bekannten Heilquellen der vorzüglichsten Länder Europa's," von Dr. E. Osann, Professor der Medicin, &c., Zweite Auflage, Berlin, 1839.

² I may mention parenthetically, that with Mr. MacAlister's assistance I have compared the list of authorities, whom Professor Osann quotes in his remarks on British Mineral Waters, with the contents of our Library, and I find no less than forty-two works by British authors mentioned, which the Library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society does not possess.

of the medical profession to guide the public and to show them both what they lose and what they gain by foreign travel. How often do we find that our patients, trusting to mere latitude, spend wretched winters in so-called warm climates, how they return with seeds of disease, or starved from want of suitable nourishment.¹ Both the medical antiquary and the modern practitioner would look primarily to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society's library for information upon all British balneological and climatological topics of recent or ancient date. The defect that I urge is one that can scarcely be remedied by a mere money outlay. I would ask all friends, and especially the Fellows of the Society, to search their libraries for forgotten pamphlets, papers and books connected with the subjects adverted to. Much that is neglected and thrown into the waste-paper basket becomes of value as the time goes by, historically if not always scientifically.

There is, however, even a more important point than this lacuna in the library to which I have ventured to draw your attention, and for which I crave your aid. In my previous remarks I have adverted to the increasing difficulty of finding room for our books. But the time has arrived when this difficulty becomes annually more and more sensible in regard to other objects of our Society; and with the growth of the Society, its increasing work, and the reasonable requirements of many Fellows, it appears a paramount duty that we should seek a more roomy and more generally accessible home. For a Society like ours to stand still, must, in the nature of things, sooner or later

¹ Since this was written a very interesting pamphlet ('South Africa as a Health Resort,' 1888) by a former secretary of this Society, Dr. Symes Thompson, has come into my hands, in which the author makes the following remarks, which show that I am not singular in my advocacy of British unrecognised advantages:—"The public mind is slowly awakening to the knowledge that the British empire has climates adapted for every form of constitutional defect. Those in this room may do much to emphasise and to impress the fact that health and life may be secured and maintained at a higher level, and for a longer time, if we select with care and forethought the home for which we are fitted."

involve our being superseded by others that are more energetic, more powerful, more willing to recognise and be guided by the demands of the times—*audentes fortuna juvat*. Let us put our shoulder to the wheel, discard the word "impossible" from our vocabulary, and let your Council feel that "vis a tergo" which even so distinguished a statesman as Lord Palmerston considered a necessity, before embarking on great measures. Without your strongly expressed opinion and energetic support the Council are indeed powerless. There are, doubtless, pecuniary and other difficulties in the way, but I cannot regard them as insuperable; the higher our aim and the better the work done by our Society, the more certainly shall we meet with that recognition on the part of the profession which leads to success.

Since these words were written the question has, somewhat unexpectedly, assumed a more tangible and practical form, in which, on Monday next, it will be placed before you. It is not now my province to say more than to express a hope that, whatever decision you may arrive at, at the Special General Meeting of the Society, it may redound to the advancement of the high objects that our founders had in view.

I think that the medical profession will admit that the individual Fellows distinguish themselves by the admirable work that is manifested at our meetings and by our 'Transactions.' The care that is taken, under the bye-laws of the Society, regarding the admission of papers to our annual volume, is a guarantee that nothing unworthy of the scientific character of the Society finds a place in them, while I would challenge any experienced visitor to our meetings to name a similar assembly where the discussions are carried on with greater knowledge, more fraternal consideration, and more dignity. But I would ask whether these individual efforts are all that may be expected of a Society like ours, and whether it may not justly be demanded of us that we should exhibit collective power, and seek by combined labour to achieve the solution of ques-

tions that are scarcely within the scope of the individual and solitary inquirer. No new legislation is necessary that this may be done. No "great mutations" such as Falkland, ardent as he was in favour of reform of Church and State, declaimed against, are required here. Nothing more is necessary than that, in the spirit of our founders and predecessors, and under the sanction of our existing bye-laws, we should assist in the development of the resources at our disposal, and admit that the "Greater Britain," which had no existence when we received our charter, claims our sympathy and consideration in all matters relating to the cultivation and promotion of Medicine and Surgery, and to the branches of science connected therewith. When I had the honour of holding the post of Secretary, the Council instituted Scientific Committees, which have since then been more definitely recognised and have a chapter devoted to them in our bye-laws. Excellent reports on "Suspended Animation," on "Anæsthetics," and on "Diphtheria," show the utility and permanence of the work done, now a good many years ago, by such co-operation. These efforts cannot have exhausted our powers or the proper subjects for inquiry, for on the one hand there is a constant influx of new blood, and on the other, the questions pressing for such solution as our Society can give, are constantly multiplying and requiring to be dealt with. Our great colleges have very different functions to perform, and it appears unfair to blame them, as is sometimes done, for not departing from the track laid down for them by charters and Acts of Parliament. Our charter was granted for "the cultivation and promotion of Physic and Surgery and of the branches of science connected with them," under which heading are fitly embraced a variety of topics that directly bear upon the physical and social well-being of the community—such a variety and multiplicity of subjects, in fact, that it behoves us to be careful not to interpret the terms so liberally as to draw us away from the correct definition of our functions. Several topics of direct practical interest that have been brought out at recent meet-

ings might fitly have suggested the formation of committees to settle our present standard of knowledge on moot points. Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery have not always found the speakers on the same side of a question that arose, and the attentive listener could not fail to desire that the differences could, at the date, be authoritatively compounded by a well-organised committee of inquiry. But if I may venture to say so, there are numerous medical, surgical, medico-legal questions, and others not immediately arising out of our regular work, which it is the duty of a Society like ours to take up and give a clear reply to, so far as the present state of science permits. The more impartial such reply is, the more it will weigh with the profession, and, in certain cases, with the general public. Far be it for me to suggest that the results thus obtained would be final; but they would, or ought to, mark the state of our knowledge at the time of inquiry, and in some cases the same matters might, after ten or twenty years, be taken up again by a similar committee, who, stepping "from precedent to precedent," would show the development, change, or deterioration, which time and circumstances might have effected.

Whatever inquiry we initiated, its proceedings would necessarily be carried on upon a strictly scientific basis, which involves impartiality as regards results. But as our researches involve also the advancement and benefit of our country, so we could not fail to arrive at conclusions that would redound to the advantage of our fellow-citizens. Thus, to take the climatology and balneology of Great Britain and its dependencies, a powerful committee reporting from time to time to the Council might establish, on the best evidence, the value of different localities in the treatment of disease, with an authority that no single writer could hope to exercise. Micrococci, bacilli, and bacteria, at the present time, although they have been before the world for a series of years, occupy in the minds of professional men a variable position in their relation to disease. We might not yet be able to solve all difficulties that present themselves in connexion with them, but a well-

organised committee might surely guide us in forming our opinion. Again, is the question of syphilis, in its multiform manifestations, in its relation to Medicine and Surgery, one to which we are able to give a categorical answer? A committee such as that contemplated might at all events fix what are the positive data at the present time, and what evidence is required to elucidate points that even now cannot be absolutely settled. Since the former report on suspended animation was published various physiological and anatomical investigations appear to invalidate some of the conclusions then arrived at. It seems to me that, for the credit of the scientific character of the Society, we are bound to renew our inquiry, and to state publicly to what extent our opinions on this point must be modified, or whether we endorse the conclusions adopted by our predecessors. These are subjects which I merely advert to in order to explain my meaning. Doubtless, if you endorse the general fitness of my proposition, other questions of similar or greater importance may suggest themselves to you, and rouse the dormant powers of this great Society.

When I look round in our meetings at the men occupying these benches, when I contemplate the countenances of the *patres conscripti* of your Council, and try to realise to myself the scientific energies that they represent, I trust I shall not be accused of exaggerating the capabilities of this Society if I sum up the observations I have submitted, humbly, for your consideration in the words: *Potest quia posse videtur*.

One word in conclusion. The President's duties are but slight in comparison with the onerous burden that falls upon the other officers of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. To them, and especially to the Secretaries of the Society, Dr. Cheadle and Mr. Warrington Haward, I beg to tender my grateful thanks for the manner in which they have enabled me to fulfil my small share in the business of the Society, and for the cordiality and courtesy which

I have, through my year of office, met at their and all your hands.

I cannot make a parting bow to you without adverting in terms of the highest praise to the admirable manner in which our Resident Librarian, Mr. MacAlister, has fulfilled all the duties of his office, and without thanking him for the ready assistance he has given me in all matters in which I sought his aid.



