

**In memoriam, Daniel John Leech, J.P., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.**

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IN MEMORIAM.

DANIEL JOHN LEECH,

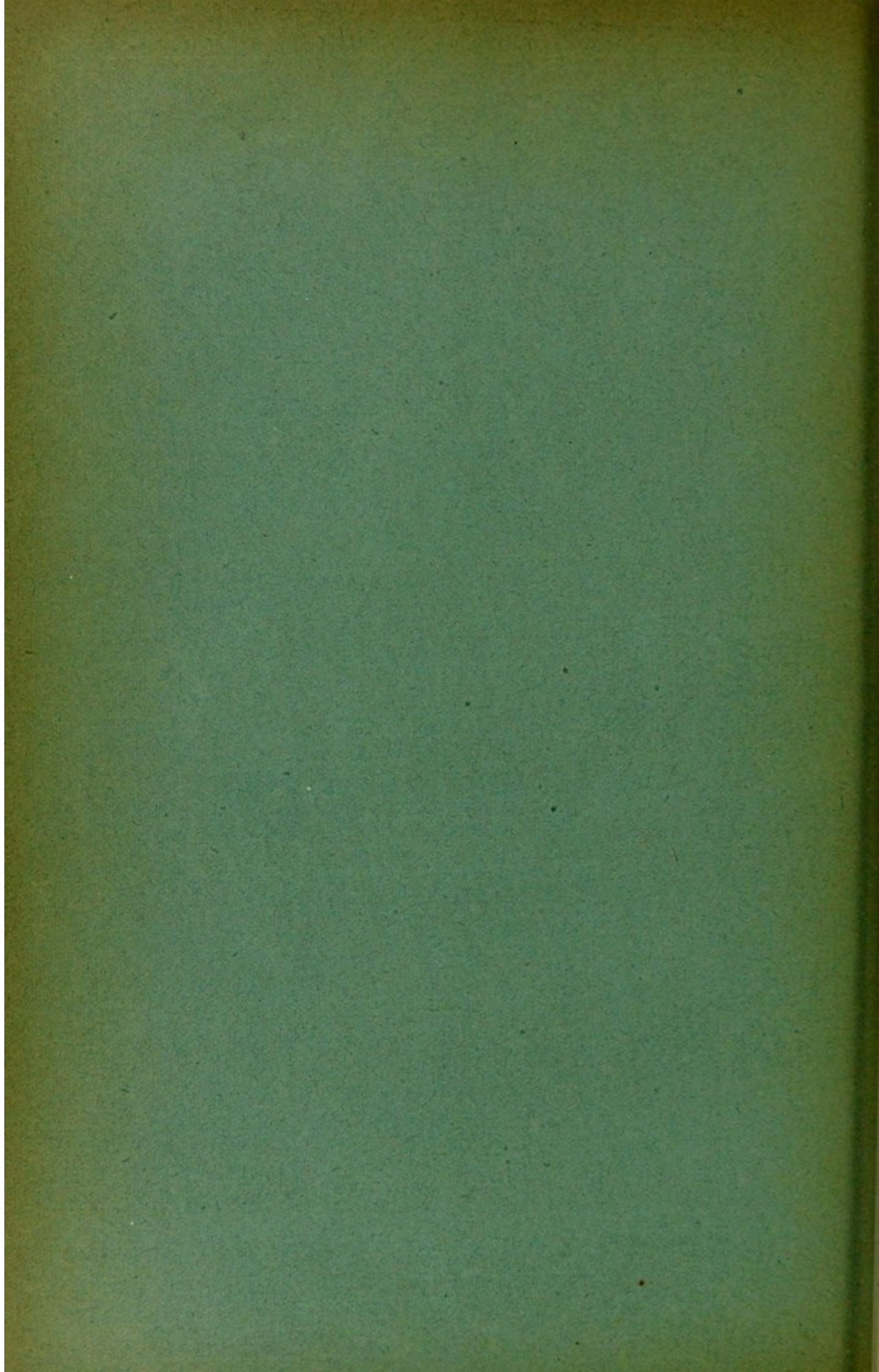
J.P., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.

*Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Owens College; Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Victoria University; Member of the General Medical Council; Consulting Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases; Hon. Physician, Cancer Hospital.*

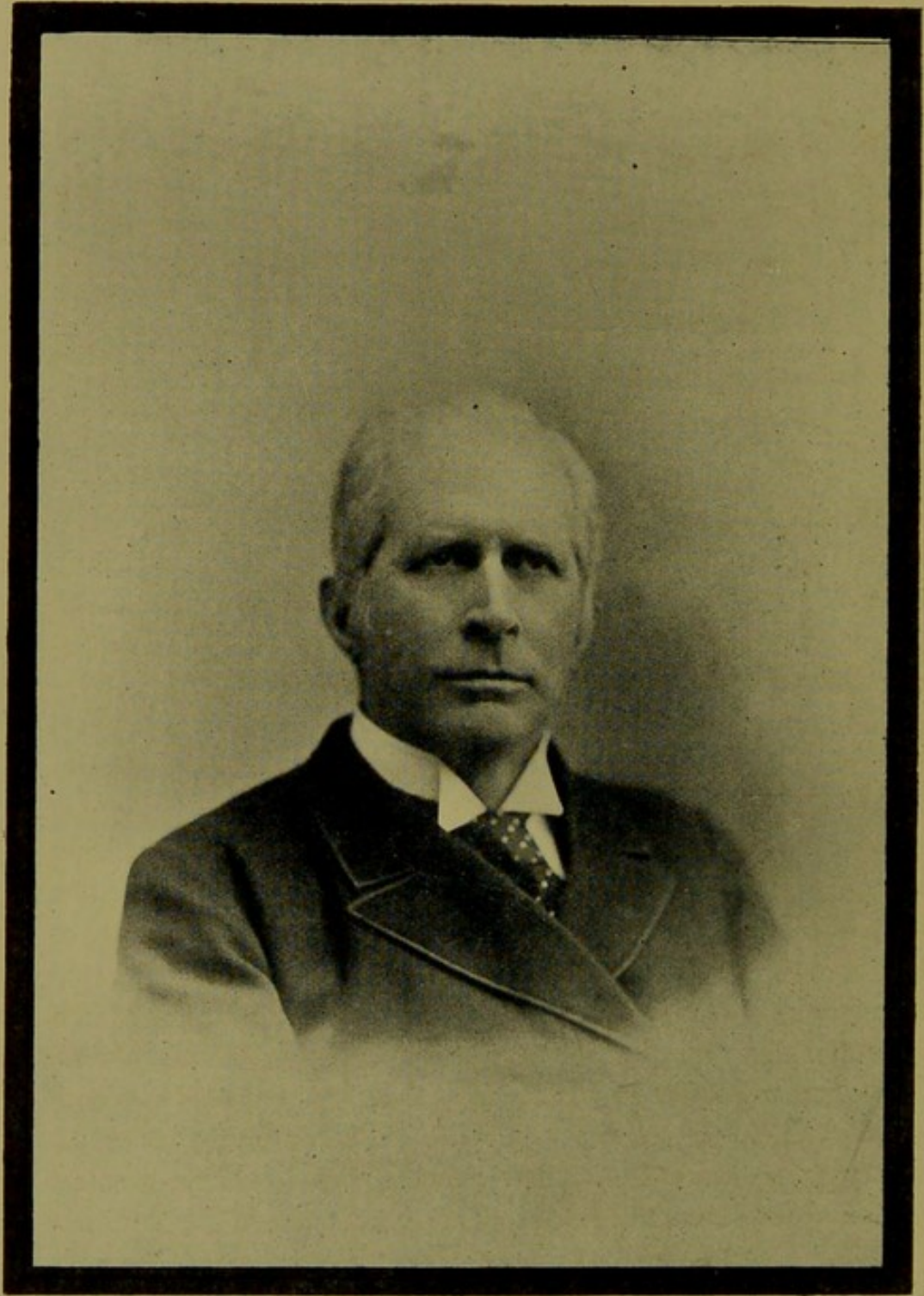
by  
[Donald Macalister]

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1900







PROF. DANIEL JOHN LEECH, J.P., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.



DANIEL JOHN LEECH, J.P., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.

*Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Owens College ;  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Victoria University ; Member of the  
General Medical Council ; Consulting Physician to the Manchester  
Royal Infirmary and Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin  
Diseases ; Hon. Physician, Cancer Hospital.*

Within a fortnight of the death of the late Professor Jones, Manchester has sustained a second severe loss by the death of Professor Leech. It is not only that the medical profession feels the loss of two of its most distinguished leaders, but the widespread sympathy, deeply expressed regret, and the large attendance at the memorial services show in how wide a circle their names were honoured, and the memory of past kindnesses affectionately treasured.

For the last six months Dr. Leech has been far from well, but was only completely laid aside from the end of March, when he made—at great exertion to himself—his last public appearance as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Victoria University, and conferred the degrees of M.B. upon the successful candidates at the March examinations, when Professor Jones presented the several candidates to receive their degrees. Since that date Dr. Leech was almost entirely confined to bed by the painful disease which eventually proved fatal on July 2nd, 1900, and showed the greatest fortitude and cheerfulness during the whole course of his illness.

Daniel John Leech was the second son of the late Mr. Thomas Leech, and was born at Urmston, near Manchester, on the 12th of January, 1840.

His childhood was passed at Urmston, and he received his early education at the Commercial Schools Stretford Road,

Manchester, later under the same master—Mr. Slight—at the Embden Street School, and afterwards at the Shaw Hall School, Flixton, under Mr. MacDougall.

In October, 1854, at the age of 14, he became a student of the Owens College, which had been founded in Quay Street, Manchester, in the year 1851, and attended the classes during the sessions 1854-5, 1855-6, 1856-7. He especially distinguished himself in Chemistry, Natural History, and Mathematics, and always spoke warmly of the teaching he received from Prof. Frankland and the late Prof. Williamson.

In 1856 he became a pupil to the late Mr. T. G. Richmond, who was in general practice in Stretford Road, and in October 1857, entered as a student of the Manchester Royal School of Medicine, then located in Chatham Street. As a medical student his career was a distinguished one, and in January, 1861, when less than a month over 21 years of age, he obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S., and shortly afterwards that of L.S.A.

It is a proof of his great ability and of that capacity for hard work which ever distinguished him throughout life that in 1860 he passed the London Matriculation Examination in the first division, though at that time in the midst of his work for the final professional examinations and performing his daily routine as assistant in a large general practice.

After becoming qualified Dr. Leech spent some months studying in Paris, where he attended lectures at several of the Paris Hospitals, and worked with Trousseau, Chassaignac, Vulpian, Ricord, and Nélaton. On his return from Paris, in 1862, he was at once appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Manchester Medical School, then in Pine Street, and held the post for two years.

In 1864 he spent the summer session in London studying clinical medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, where he was clerk to Dr. Sibson. On returning to Manchester, he entered into partnership with Mr. Richmond, shortly afterwards succeeded him, and for some years remained in general practice.

In 1868 he took the degree of M.B. in the London University, with First-class Honours in obstetrics, and in 1870 he was appointed Honorary Physician to the Hulme Dispensary, then

newly founded ; he had for his colleagues Dr. David Little and the late Dr. Ritchie, and to the energy and ability of its medical officers is largely due the successful establishment of that useful institution.

In 1873 he was appointed Honorary Assistant Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and threw himself into clinical teaching with his accustomed ardour and thoroughness.

In 1875 he was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and was elected a Fellow in 1882. In 1876 he took the degree of M D. of the London University.

In 1878, on the death of Dr. Eason Wilkinson, he became Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and held the appointment for 21 years, until July, 1899, when he resigned, and was appointed Consulting Physician.

Dr. Leech was always interested in diseases of the skin, and in addition to his other duties voluntarily organised a Dermatological Clinic at the Royal Infirmary. This he continued until the establishment of the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases in 1885, in which he took an active share, and was appointed Honorary Consulting Physician. In the growth and development of the Skin Hospital he took a keen interest, and was a generous contributor to its funds. One of his last public appearances was at the annual meeting of the Hospital in February.

When the Whitworth trustees presented the Stanley Grove estate to the Owens College for Hospital purposes, Dr. Leech was one of the earliest subscribers towards the foundation of the Cancer Hospital in 1892 ; he was one of the first Honorary Physicians to that Institution, and Chairman of the Medical Board up to his death. To his constant help and interest in the work of the hospital is due much of the success which has attended its work during the past eight years.

Dr. Leech was also Consulting Physician to the Deaf and Dumb Institute, in Old Trafford.

In the year 1876, Dr. Leech was offered and accepted the co-Lectureship of *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics* in the Owens College. On the death of Mr. Somers he became sole lecturer, and in 1881 he was appointed the first Professor



of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics. At the time of his appointment the Owens College possessed no *Materia Medica* Museum, and Dr. Leech set about supplying this want with the greatest energy; with the aid of the College Authorities and at no small cost to himself he has formed one of the finest Museums of *Materia Medica* in this country. He has also organised a department for experimental pharmacology, a pharmaceutical department in which instruction is given to medical students in dispensing and practical pharmacy, and also a pharmaceutical school for the education of pharmacists. He made himself master of his own subject, kept himself constantly up to date, and early recognised the growing importance of experimental pharmacology, which was at that time but little recognised in this country. Many generations of students will remember his lectures on pharmacology and therapeutics which were thoroughly scientific, but nevertheless bore the stamp of his eminently practical mind and wide experience of the needs of actual practice.

Great as were Dr. Leech's services in his own department, his services to the Owens College were equally great in a wider sphere. Successively a member of the Senate, the Council and the Court of Governors, he took a deep interest in the development of all departments of the College, and bore a leading part in the organisation of the Medical Faculty of the Victoria University. Since the Charter was obtained and the University established he has given much of his best work on its behalf. For many years a member of the Council and the Court, a Chairman of Convocation, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the representative of the University upon the General Medical Council, he has had an influential voice in guiding the policy of the growing University and instituting a high standard for its degrees. In recognition of his services he received in 1895 the degree of D.Sc. of the Victoria University *honoris causâ*.

During his term of office on the General Medical Council, the revision of the British Pharmacopœia afforded him an opportunity of utilising his special knowledge as a member of the Pharmacopœia Committee, and the value of his work was recognised

by his colleagues in his appointment to the Chairmanship of that Committee, in succession to the late Sir Richard Quain.

The esteem in which Dr. Leech was held is shown by the following extract from a letter which he received during his last illness, and which afforded him much pleasure:—"It is only stating the fact to say that everyone on the Council will miss your presence, your good sense in judgment, your clearness and consciseness in debate, and (not least), your wisdom in silence." At the time of his illness he was engaged in making a collection of Pharmacopœias for the General Medical Council, and had succeeded in collecting over 100 specimens as the nucleus of a Pharmacopœial library.

In the work of Medical Societies Dr. Leech took a great interest, and especially in the work of the British Medical Association, and the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch. He was Honorary Secretary of the Branch in 1877, and also one of the three General Secretaries for the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Manchester in that year; to his work and that of his colleagues, Mr. Hardie and Dr. Cullingworth, much of the success of the Annual Meeting was due. In 1890 he was President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch, and was appointed to the Council of the Association in 1884-5, 1885-6, 1891-2, and 1892-3.

At the Annual Meeting in Norwich 1874, he was Secretary to the section of Public Medicine; at the Annual Meeting in Dublin, 1887, he was Vice-President of the section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and President of the same section in 1897, at Montreal. At the Dublin meeting he was one of the organisers of the Therapeutic Committee of the Association, he took an active part in the work and afterwards became Chairman of the Committee for several years. One of the most important investigations in which he took part was the enquiry into the extent to which certain drugs and preparations were used in actual practice; the resulting report undoubtedly had considerable influence upon the British Pharmacopœia of 1898.

In 1869, Dr. Leech joined the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association, and was the Honorary Secretary from 1870, to 1873. During his tenure of office he produced several very

able and valuable reports upon the health of Manchester and Salford, in which he called attention to the pollution of the rivers, the contamination of the air by smoke, the adulteration of food and milk, and the housing of the Working Classes. In 1895 he was elected Chairman of the Committee of the Association and held that position at the time of his death.

To the Manchester Medical Society he contributed many papers, and was President for the years 1883-4. In 1897 he founded the Manchester Therapeutical Society, and was its first President. He was a member of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, to which he recently presented a valuable report upon the Health Resorts of North Wales; also of the Pathological Societies of London and Manchester, the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, and in 1898 he was elected an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

In 1881 Dr. Leech became a Freemason and in 1896 was Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire.

In 1897 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the City of Manchester. In 1869 he married the eldest daughter of the late Mr. James Maclaren, of Whalley Range.

Dr. Leech was always an advocate for the maintenance of a high-class medical journal in Manchester, and from its first establishment, in 1884, has constantly remained one of the strongest supporters of the *Medical Chronicle*, both by his purse and work. He contributed to its pages not only many original articles, but also critical abstracts of therapeutical papers, many of which were of great value, and to the compilation of them he devoted much of his scanty leisure. He was a member of the committee of guarantors from the commencement, joint-editor for five years, and for the last two years he has been chairman of the committee.

In 1893 Dr. Leech gave the Croonian Lectures before the Royal College of Physicians of London, taking as his subject "The Pharmacological Action and Therapeutic Uses of the Nitrites and Allied Compounds." These lectures were published in the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* at the time, and

probably form his most important contribution to medical literature. He was a most painstaking writer, and took the greatest care to verify every fact or reference, and to carefully weigh every statement that he made, consequently his writings are not voluminous, but it may be safely said that what he wrote will stand the test of time, and though he wrote no book there are some subjects with which his name will be inseparably connected.

He was a clinician rather than a pathologist, and above all a therapist.

Of an open, frank, and genial disposition, he was gifted with a most lovable personality which endeared him to all, students and patients alike, with whom he came in contact. Always ready to help where help was needed, there are many to whom his death is a personal loss which can never be replaced.

Other friends—older than I can claim to be—will have the privilege of bearing testimony to his personal character and the value of his work. I may, however, be allowed to say that more than any other man Daniel John Leech seemed to realise Browning's noble words :—

“One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,  
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, sleep to wake.”

*Robert B. Wild.*

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The Principal of Owens College writes as follows :—

It is not easy to write of one so well known and so much beloved as Dr. Leech ; words used within the bounds of a due reticence must seem inadequate to express the feelings of his friends, and probably the majority of the readers of the *Chronicle* might claim that title. Yet it is impossible for one who was associated with him in many matters affecting the College and who felt so often the value of his advice and help, not to add, however imperfectly, some few words expressive of what we owe to him and in memory of a useful life and noble character.

His loss at a time when he might be expected to have more leisure for public work, when in the enjoyment of universal respect

and when in possession of full mental vigour and matured judgment is one that cannot be replaced. His recent election by the Associates of the College as an additional member of the Court of Governors, under the late Act of Parliament, had made it possible for him to become a member of the Council as well as of the Senate. The esteem in which he was held in his profession and in the City, his own clear and disinterested judgment and ripe experience, his delicate regard for the feelings of others, generosity and whole-hearted desire for the public interest, would have made him invaluable in such a position.

Dr. Leech's connection with Owens College dates back to its earliest years. He was one of the first of its students to attain distinction, having entered in 1854. In 1874 he was appointed a Lecturer, and in 1881 Professor of *Materia Medica*. Throughout his long connection with the College he showed a great and growing interest in its welfare. Although so much occupied with professional engagements, with work of public usefulness, and in a special degree with his duties as a Member of the Medical Council, he devoted a great amount of time and thought to his own department in the College; and even in his last illness he was occupied with plans for maintaining its efficiency and completeness.

Those who were associated with the College in its early days, showed that they took a high view of what education ought to be. Nothing could be more false than the notion that the Manchester men who took part in its administration were influenced by narrow utilitarian notions. Dr. Leech appears to have fully shared their feelings, and his influence in the Medical Council and in the Victoria University was always used in favour of securing a sound standard of general education for those who intend to enter the medical profession. His own interests were wide; his reading not limited to purely medical or scientific subjects. He took broad and liberal views. His mind was singularly free from prejudice, his judgment of character acute and yet kindly and sympathetic. He was emphatically a just man; one to whom it was natural to turn for advice. Long experience, keen practical good sense, and above all the nobility and disinterestedness of his character, made

others naturally turn to him when in doubt what course to take. He took a real interest when difficulties were presented to him. To see his lips compressed and his eye brighten, when, having carefully listened to a statement and grasped fully the question, he was ready to give his opinion, and then to hear him speak, made those who consulted him feel that his whole mind had been given the point, and that it was no feigned or languid interest that he had when others brought their doubts to him. His students, the younger members of his profession whom he so often helped, his patients and his colleagues in the hospitals and in the College mourn his loss, and the whole city has shared in testifying the estimation in which he was held.

Those who saw or heard from Dr. Leech during his fatal illness will never forget the calm courage with which he faced pain and death. Anxious to have been able to finish completely useful undertakings in which he was engaged, yet uncomplaining; thoughtful of others and attentive to making of arrangements for completing and carrying on his work; he endured patiently, even cheerfully, and we reverently acknowledge, thinking of the friend we have lost, how noble a thing human nature can become.

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Dr. C. J. Cullingworth writes as follows :—

Leech and I first met, not as students (for he had attended lectures in Manchester, I at Leeds), but some two or three years after we had become qualified, when he was in general practice in Manchester, and I was a resident at the Royal Infirmary. Early in 1867 Dr. Reed, the then resident medical officer, had obtained permission to relinquish the professional part of his duties and devote himself entirely to the general management of the institution. To my great delight, the charge of the medical and fever wards had in consequence been handed over to me. Leech soon discovered a kindred spirit and became a very frequent visitor to the wards. And so the foundation of our long friendship was laid. Both of us were ardent clinical students, and whilst he reaped the advantage of thus obtaining access to a rich mine of clinical material I felt myself equally fortunate in having found a helpful and inspiring co-worker with whom it was at once a

pleasure and a privilege to discuss the cases and puzzle out the diagnoses. Leech was, in age, only about a year my senior, but as he had commenced his medical studies earlier than I and had had the advantage of a year or two's preliminary scientific training at Owens College, he was in advance of me professionally. After completing my two years' term of residence at the Royal Infirmary I determined to settle in Manchester. The friendship between Leech and myself had by this time so far ripened that on the occasion of his marriage he invited me to be one of his groomsmen. Among my colleagues on that occasion were the late Sir Wm. Roberts and Dr. David Little, both of them then bachelors. Four years later Leech was elected Assistant Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and about the same time I was appointed to succeed Mr. Walter Whitehead, as Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital for women. Both of us had out-patients under our care, Leech's being of course entirely medical, whilst mine comprehended all the disorders, medical, surgical, or gynæcological from which women and children could suffer, for St. Mary's had not, as yet, restricted the scope of its out-patient work, as, a little later, it wisely did, to the diseases peculiar to women and the diseases of children. I do not remember with which of us the idea originated, but it was about this time that Leech, Dr. Dreschfeld, and I formed ourselves into a small private Clinical Society, which met, once a fortnight I believe, at the house of each member in rotation. An occasional visitor was allowable but no addition could be made to the number of members. Each member brought to the meeting any (living) cases of interest that he happened to have met with, either in hospital or private practice. The first part of the meeting was occupied with the examination of the patients in attendance, usually from six to twelve in number, and the recording of each case in the Society's note-book by the host of the evening whose duty it was to act as Secretary. We then retired to another room, where we discussed, with the help of the fragrant weed, the various cases we had seen, the Secretary for the time being noting briefly in the minute book the result of our discussions. Once, and once only, we broke through our rule as to the non-admission of new members—when the late Dr. James Ross, who had then recently come to reside

in Manchester, was added to our number. For several years our little Society prospered, and it was with very great regret that we found ourselves at length too fully occupied to continue it, for to all of us its meetings had been a means of much pleasure and of much educational advantage.

I have lingered upon these early associations, because I understand that it is desired that I should touch chiefly in these remarks upon the earlier part of my friend's career, and recall incidents which are necessarily, in point of time, beyond the knowledge of most readers of the *Chronicle*.

Leech's indefatigable energy and public spirit led him to take an active interest in many organisations—educational, sanitary, philanthropic, and otherwise; but it may, I think, truly be said that amongst all these Owens College held, during the whole of his mature life, the first place in his affections. He was never weary in his efforts to promote its interests: he gave time, thought, and money ungrudgingly, and lost no opportunity of pleading its cause with his wealthier neighbours. He remembered with lifelong gratitude the insight into scientific methods, the glimpse into an entirely new world, that he had gained during the two years that he had attended classes in the old College in Quay Street; and he felt that no service he could render in after life was too great to express his sense of indebtedness for that altogether invaluable, and at the time exceptional, experience. This consciousness of what he himself owed to his early familiarization with practical scientific work, led him, at the time the regulations of the Victoria University were being formulated, to support very strenuously, in the face of much opposition, the proposal to institute, for all medical graduates, an examination somewhat corresponding to the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the University of London. In other words, he strove, with all the energy of profound conviction, to ensure that every medical graduate of the new University should have had some good practical instruction in the collateral sciences of chemistry, biology, and physics. It has been fortunate for the reputation of the University that he, and those of us who agreed with him, carried our point.

Of Leech's greatest achievement, the organisation and develop-



ment of the Department of Materia Medica and Therapeutics over which he presided in Owens College, Dr. Wild, as one of his most able and faithful lieutenants, can speak with much more intimate knowledge than I can. It was characteristic of the man that when the opportunity came to him of relinquishing his chair for the more important one of "The principles and practice of medicine," he preferred to remain where he was and help to carry on the work he had been so signally successful in organising.

Leech has always stood to me as the very embodiment of unselfishness. There are degrees of unselfishness as of all other human characteristics. One man will, when any question arises affecting his own interests, be tempted at first to be influenced by that consideration but will brush aside the temptation and act rightly and honourably in spite of it, another will act similarly without having experienced any such internal struggle, and without having been conscious of any such specific act of self-conquest. The latter manifestly moves in a higher ethical atmosphere, though the ultimate outcome in conduct may be the same in both. To Leech the temptation to regard a situation from the point of view of his own personal interest never presented itself. Ambition of a certain kind he undoubtedly had, but it was a perfectly innocent ambition, and was held in perpetual check by those higher aims which were part of his nature, and which, without (as I have said) any conscious effort on his part, invariably predominated. He had in typical perfection what the Romans called an "equal mind." He never became unduly elated, and he did not know what depression meant. He had a singularly cool, clear, and independent judgment. He never excelled as a public speaker. He was, nevertheless, an admirable committeeman, taking infinite pains to arrive at a sound conclusion, and then fighting for his opinions with all the energy of his energetic nature, absolutely regardless of what anybody said or thought of him. But he brought no personal feeling into the fight, and bore his opponents no malice. He was of the few who could accept defeat gracefully.

My dear friend's death is all too recent for me to trust myself to speak of my own personal loss, but there is no need to exercise a like reserve in regard to the enormous value of an influence

and example like his in a great medical centre like Manchester. Utterly free, just as Sir W. Roberts was, from the least spark of professional jealousy, he, like his distinguished predecessor, did much to preserve Manchester from those petty bickerings and unworthy suspicions that unfortunately, in many districts, place barriers in the way of professional intercourse, and deprive professional life of some of its most genuine and stimulating pleasures. It is not until they are removed from our midst, that we adequately realise how incalculable a blessing it has been for a district to have such men as its medical leaders for so many years.

It is a curious and melancholy coincidence that these two Manchester physicians, who had been almost life-long friends, and who, in somewhat different ways, were typical of all that is highest and best in the profession they had chosen, should have been struck down so quickly one after the other and by the same fatal malady. To each came the burden of a long and painful illness, but to each also came the soothing retrospect of a well-spent and useful life and the courage to face the inevitable end with a cheerful confidence that amazed even those who knew and loved them best.

*Chas. J. Cullingworth.*

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Dr. Little writes as follows:—The death of Dr. Leech has caused widespread sorrow amongst all classes in this part of the country, and no wonder, for it implies the disappearance of an exemplary life and a notable figure from Manchester society and from British Medical circles. Personally, I feel his loss acutely, and I desire to pay a tribute of sincere and affectionate respect to the memory of my dear old friend. It is difficult to realise that he is no longer in our midst, and it saddens one's heart to think we shall never see his dear kind face again.

Since I came to Manchester, now over 35 years ago, he has been my most intimate and reliable friend, a friendship uninterrupted and unsullied, for in the closest of friendships as well as relationships, he never stooped from his own lofty level to a hasty

word or a selfish act. His was a charming and lovable nature. I have never known a man whose character was more unselfish and more noble. Although he could hold strong views on subjects, and uphold them well, yet in all his discussions and debates, there was absolutely no trace of bitterness or harshness, and nothing ever escaped his lips to wound the feelings of any one. Earnestness, honesty and sympathy, and that quality "simplicity," possessed by all truly great minds, were prominent traits in his disposition. He was the kindest and most genial of men, and I mourn his loss with those who are nearest and dearest to him.

Dr. Leech's sense of duty towards his patients and students was deep and full of sympathy, as many can testify. It was only the other day that I met a well-known practitioner, who told me of his recent attendance on his wife through a serious illness, and how he paid one of his visits, quite of his own accord and unexpectedly, at 1 o'clock in the morning, just, as he said, to satisfy himself as to how his patient was progressing, as he was anxious about her. This was truly characteristic of the man throughout his whole professional career. No labour was too great for him, if he thought it was for the good and comfort of others.

Practitioners and students, alike, will ever gratefully remember his many social and pleasant gatherings at his hospitable and happy home at Whalley Range. His manner of receiving his friends was so kindly, so genial, he made them feel welcome and at home; glad to come, and loth to leave.

Dr. Leech was, all his life, an enthusiastic and indefatigable worker. He never seemed to take things easily. His work was solid and honest. That he accomplished what he did, indicates the measure of his strength of will and ambition.

Others have already dutifully recorded recognition of his work as a professional man and as a citizen, and I have little to add to it, except to say this, that he was intensely devoted to the interests of the Victoria University and Owens College. His work there was a labour of love: no one except those connected with the College knows how much the position and success of the Medical School are due to his efforts.

It was my privilege to pay him frequent visits during his illness, up to within a few days of his death; he watched his symptoms as a scientific spectator. He was well aware of the probabilities and possibilities of his own case. It was touching to see how calmly and cheerfully he bore his illness, without a murmur and with perfect resignation—he said “Death had no terrors for him.” In all his life, whether in sickness or in health, he fulfilled the ideal of a most true man. He himself, the husband and friend, still lives, for his spirit and influence for all that is good and noble can never die, as Charles Kingsley has said: “Perfect rest in perfect work, that surely is the rest of blessed spirits.”

*David Little.*

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Professor Frederick Roberts, of University College, London, writes as follows:—

May I be permitted to express my deep regret and sympathy on account of the death of my dear old friend Dr. Leech. He was a man whom to know was to admire, esteem, and love. A few years ago we used to see a great deal of each other, and I shall ever look back upon our friendly intercourse with the most pleasant and happy reminiscences. His professional career is a splendid record, and the influence for good which he has exercised is beyond estimation. It was from Tom Jones, the week before he departed for South Africa, that I heard of Dr. Leech's hopeless condition, and he was mourning that he should not see him alive on his return! Little did he realize that he should be the first to depart! Truly Manchester claims just now the profound sympathy of the entire medical profession!

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Dr. Donald MacAlister sends the following account of Dr. Leech's work on the General Medical Council:—

It is with a heavy heart that I respond to the Editors' invitation to say a few words regarding the special work in which I had the honour to co-operate with Dr. Leech. He was no ordinary colleague, and the loss of his wise guidance and his unselfish help

is no common loss. He joined us in the General Medical Council in 1891, and his quiet but most effective influence was speedily felt. On questions relating to the improvement of general education, to the difficulties and disabilities of practitioners, and to the enlargement of the medical curriculum, he was ever ready to advocate and to support a policy of enlightened advance. Though he spoke less frequently than some, and indulged in no rhetoric, his words were those of conviction and sagacious foresight, and they had their weight. In committee, and in particular on the Pharmacopœia Committee to which he was soon elected, his various and minute knowledge of detail, his open-minded readiness to welcome fresh light, and his tact in reconciling divergent views, were of the utmost helpfulness. Instinctively it was felt that any suggestion which Dr. Leech seriously opposed must require very careful examination. He was so plainly sincere and without after-thought or under-thought in what he proposed or objected to, that attention was at once concentrated on the merits of the question under consideration; it did not occur to anyone's mind to ask—What is he driving at?

In the preparation of the *British Pharmacopœia*, 1898, Dr. Leech's labours were incessant. If, as appears to be agreed, it is better than any of its predecessors, the credit is very largely his. If it still is in certain points defective, it is probably because his counsel was not fully adopted. As one who shared with him the duty of finally revising the proof sheets, I can say that no sentence in the whole book escaped his scrutiny, and that hundreds of corrections and improvements in matter, manner, and arrangement were due to his knowledge and skill. His method was strictly scientific: when a statement was doubtful or disputed, he seldom argued or cited authority; "Let us try," or "Let us look," was his remark. A reference to actual experiment or observation speedily settled the point. And he never spared trouble or time when such questions of accuracy were raised. He knew where to look, or whom to ask for sound information on an amazing variety of subjects, and it was rarely that he was baffled in his endeavours after definiteness and precision. The Pharmacopœia Committee, in its final report on the issue of the book, went out of its way to place on record the exceptional

value of his services ; and on the death of Sir Richard Quain, it unhesitatingly chose him to succeed as Chairman.

The completion of the *Pharmacopœia* of 1898 did not end his labours. The empire at large had to be provided for as well as the United Kingdom, and Dr. Leech threw himself zealously into the work of preparing the Imperial *Addendum* for use in India and the Colonies. The enquiries, negotiations, and deliberations which this involved were numerous and novel. The difficulties were great, and the available means imperfect ; but Dr. Leech's perseverance and energy were indomitable, and he laid down the task only with his life, and when it was on the eve of accomplishment. He had the further satisfaction of opening friendly communications with the authorities of the United States, which give grounds for the hope that an assimilation of the British and the American Pharmacopœias will ultimately be attained.

The history of official pharmacy had great attraction for him, and his acquaintance with old formularies and dispensaries was wide and deep. He had made, with much pains, a collection of works of this kind, which included many rare and curious examples ; and this, almost as his last act, he made over to the Council as the nucleus of a Pharmacopœial Library of reference. A special book-plate has been engraved for the collection, which will always be associated with his name, and will preserve the memory of his accomplishments and his devotion. For those who may have to carry on the work from which he has been so untimely taken, nothing better can be wished than that they should follow the course he has traced, and emulate the example he has given.

*Donald MacAlister.*

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Chiefly compiled by Mrs. A. A. Kanthack, and chronologically arranged by R. B. Wild.

1870. "Report on Seventy Cases of Epilepsy." (With Mr. Dacre Fox, M.R.C.S.). *Manchester Medical and Surgical Reports*, 1870.

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1883. "Spiritus Ætheris Nitrosi." *Practitioner*, 1883, Vol. XXXI., p. 241.  
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 "Antifebrin." *Med. Chron.*, July, 1888, Vol. VIII., p. 297.  
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1893. Croonian Lectures of the Royal College of Physicians of London.  
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