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RETROSPECTS AND PROSPECTS RELATING TO UNIVERSITY LIFE.

Retrospects and Prospects relating to University Life, being the first Mitchell Banks Memorial Lecture delivered before the University of Liverpool

BY

REGINALD HARRISON, F.R.C.S

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THE FIRST

MITCHELL BANKS MEMORIAL LECTURE,

FOUNDED BY

THE CITIZENS OF LIVERPOOL

AND

OTHER FRIENDS,

IN CONNECTION WITH

THE

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED

TO THE

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., G.C.B., LL.D.,

BY THE AUTHOR.

Yours sincerely
William M. Banks.

Retrospects and Prospects relating to University Life, being the first Mitchell Banks Memorial Lecture delivered before the University of Liverpool.

By REGINALD HARRISON, F.R.C.S.

December 18, 1905.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To the great sorrow of a host of friends, William Mitchell Banks, aged 61, died suddenly on August 9, 1904.

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To-day we are met within the University which he materially assisted to raise and to endow, to do special honour to his memory, and to stimulate, now and in the future, others to emulate those qualities of heart and head which he lavishly and unselfishly utilised for the benefit of his fellow-citizens.

The sorrow occasioned by his death was soon followed by the expression of a wide-spread public desire to perpetuate his memory in a manner suited to his life and work. With this object meetings were held in the Town Hall,

presided over by the Lord Mayor, supported by a large number of citizens, members of the University and of the learned professions, and other friends.

A considerable subscription was rapidly raised, and after careful consideration it was resolved that the Memorial should take the following form :—

First, to promote an addition to the Royal Infirmary of an out-patient department. The want of this with all modern accessories has been much felt as affording the means for treating a large number of persons suffering from sudden accidents, and medical emergencies not requiring to remain in the infirmary.

In the second place, to provide for a lectureship in connection with the University. Thus it is desired to perpetuate the memory of our friend in the double capacity he so long and worthily fulfilled in this city of surgeon and teacher.

On the invitation of the Council of the University the honour and privilege of delivering for the first time what will henceforth be known as the William Mitchell Banks Memorial Lecture has devolved upon me.

Though conscious of my inability to do justice to the occasion and to the long and pleasant memories of the past, which perhaps more

closely associate me with our departed friend than other of his colleagues, I shall hope to find within the terms of the Lectureship some material for comment directly arising out of his active and consistent life.

In addressing you, being very mindful of my long residence in Liverpool, only terminated by necessities arising out of a self-imposed limitation in work, I shall ask for more freedom in treating my subject than perhaps I should otherwise have done if I had been speaking to an equally learned, but less sympathetic audience.

Further, I venture to think that the first lecture may possibly with advantage be somewhat more discursive than those which may follow. Hence, if in the course of my remarks I prove too much at home I hope you will forgive me.

It cannot fail to be a pleasing retrospect to the Profession I have the honour to belong that this college, or rather I should say this University, with its magnificent buildings and equipments, is bound up very intimately with the history of medical education in this city.

If, Sir, in referring to the progress of this University, which, under your direction, is taking so prominent and useful a position in the daily life of this city, I appear to attach undue importance to the influence exercised on the

movement by my professional brethren in bygone days, it is not, I can assure you, for vain or empty reasons.

History will be found to furnish examples showing that as the study of medicine in the past has contributed no little to the renown of some of the older universities, both at home and abroad, these institutions have in their turn shed much lustre and distinction upon us by broadening and solidifying the foundations upon which our work is based in common with other learned professions.

It may not be without advantage on this occasion if for a moment, before speaking of other matters, I refer to that portion of the history of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, as it was called, which intervened between 1864 and 1874. I select this period from records which go back to 1834, partly for the reason that it includes the time I was Registrar of the School,[1] as the Dean was then called, and partly because it was during that period that its struggles for existence were the keenest, and called forth exceptional exertions on the part of all those interested in its welfare, and which eventually secured its renaissance.

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[1] I may also mention that I was Lecturer on Anatomy from 1865-70, and on Surgery from 1870-78, and subsequently Lecturer on Clinical Surgery, in University College and in Victoria University.

Within this decade, records show, and some living memories recall, that it increased from 15 students in 1864 to 103 in 1874. With this advance in numbers the scholarship of its students increased proportionately, and successes at the Universities were more frequently added to those for diplomas of the "College and Hall," as these licensing bodies were then briefly called.

In 1867, in consequence of the gradual increase in the number of students, a joint deputation from the Medical Board of the Royal Infirmary and the School of Medicine represented to the Committee of the Infirmary the desirability of granting additional land for a future extension of the School premises should this prove necessary. This was acceded to, and the School Committee was pleased to think they had taken time by the forelock, as subsequent events showed.

The removal of the asylum for lunatics—the site which the University now includes—into the country was mooted, and at that time seemed not improbable. The Medical School recognised the prudence of the step they had taken, as if the asylum had been closed it was impossible to predicate what might have replaced it. Had the site of the asylum been disposed of and otherwise utilised this would have strengthened

the hands of those who desired to see the future college located in the neighbourhood of Princes Park, over a mile distant from the Infirmary. Such a step would have been a serious detriment to the Medical School. About the time I am referring to some minor extensions were made in the buildings.

In July, 1871, a Committee, consisting of the Chairman and Registrar (Dr. Nevins and Mr. Reginald Harrison), together with Dr. Cameron, Mr. Bickersteth, Dr. Caton, and Mr. Banks, was appointed to prepare plans for the extension of the School. These were shortly afterwards adopted, and steps taken to raise £5,000, of which fund Dr. A. T. H. Waters was Treasurer. Mr. John Pemberton Heywood headed the list with £1,500, and the citizens of Liverpool, including a large number of the medical profession, brought the total to £5,763. A full list of the donors will be found in the Annual Report of the Royal Infirmary for 1873.

The extensions and alterations in the Medical School were thus summarised by Dr. Caton in his Introductory Address to the students on October 1, 1873 :—

" We have increased our space to the required degree, more than doubling the size of the School building, and putting ourselves in possession of the most complete and efficient means

for teaching. New chemical and physiological laboratories and class-rooms, several important additions to the anatomical department, and a large new museum have been erected and furnished. A library and reading-room and a pathological room have been provided, and various minor additions made to the School. It may now fairly be said that for its size there is no school in the country more fully equipped for the work of medical teaching in all its scientific and practical departments."

There could be no doubt that at that early period the School was in a state of preparation for assuming the greater responsibilities arising out of its being constituted the Medical Faculty of a University, or other teaching institution connected with higher education with which it might be incorporated. It had been long recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons of England as one of the Medical Schools at which the curriculum of professional education might be completed for its diplomas of Fellow and Member. It had youth and vigor on its side, which only waited for opportunity.

Though it would be invidious to mention the names of all those who took part in the affairs of the Medical School during this eventful period in its history, I cannot refrain from a reference to Dr. Frederick Roberts's association with us.

He was the first lecturer appointed in 1866 on Comparative Anatomy, and later on lectured on Botany. In addition he was Physician to the Northern Hospital and Demonstrator of Anatomy at the time I was lecturing on this subject. His loss to the School on his removal to London in 1869 was much felt.

I would here incidentally mention that the *Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal* was started in 1867 under the Editorship of Dr. Roberts and myself. It still enjoys an uninterrupted and prosperous existence, and provides a regular and permanent record of the transactions of the Liverpool Medical Institution. It is also the medium to the profession generally for many valuable papers and hospital reports from local authors.

Mr. Banks, as he was then called, came to Liverpool in 1868 as assistant to Mr. E. R. Bickersteth, and enjoyed for some years, as I had previously done, the great advantage of studying Surgery in private and hospital practice under the direction of one of the most accomplished operators and experienced surgeons of his day. Both master and assistant certainly had this in common, that they were both devoted disciples of Professor Syme, and greatly favoured Surgery as taught in the renowned School of Edinburgh.

After a short period of service as Demonstrator of Anatomy and Pathologist in the *post-mortem* rooms, he was appointed Lecturer on Anatomy in 1870, and Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, after some years of duty as assistant, in 1877. The method and course of Banks's life, so far as the teaching of Anatomy was concerned, is worthy of notice, as it seemed to outline the subsequent direction of his more prominent work as a surgeon. He was taught Anatomy by Sir William Turner—he was Prosector of Anatomy for Goodsir—he in turn taught Anatomy to others as Demonstrator to Professor Allen Thompson. Here was a combination of teaching power applied to a single subject and to one personality at the very outset of his career, a coincidence which I am sure all anatomists will recognise as being almost unique.

How he utilised these great advantages for the benefit of others is noted in the following passage I had the privilege of writing shortly after his untimely death[1]:—

"He rarely published a surgical paper without one or more original illustrations. He believed in teaching by the eye as well as the ear, concurrently. His dissecting-room aptitude and his method of displaying it proved of great service

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[1] *The Lancet*, August 20, 1904.

to him when he became Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary. Some of his operations which required in particular accurate and extensive dissection—for instance, for the radical cure of hernia, the removal of growths and tumours about the neck and axilla, and the ligature of large arteries in connection with aneurysms—were models of execution, and at the same time demonstrated the breadth and utility of his experience as an anatomist."

He resigned his chair of Anatomy after holding it for nearly a quarter of a century, and was succeeded by Professor A. Melville Paterson. During this long period of office he greatly enriched the anatomical museum by dissections, preparations, and drawings of inestimable value. Through the kindness of Lady Banks these gifts have been most importantly supplemented by the presentation to the University, for the department of Anatomy, of Sir William's very valuable professional library. Thus they will serve to remind future generations of students of his indomitable industry and varied skill.

On the occasion of resigning the Professorship, his friends and old pupils presented him with his portrait, painted by the Hon. John Collier, as a mark of esteem for his long and valuable services in connection with this department. It now occupies a place of honour in

the University. Apart from being a work of art and a good likeness, it will recall characteristics which are still fresh in our memory.

The picture, it will be seen, represents Sir William as the robed Professor, with pointer in hand, evidently about to address his class. Ceremonials and robes were two little harmless vanities connected with professional life about which he was rather strong and insistent. He used occasionally to lament the apathy of our profession, in contrast with others, in regard to these matters, and took as I remember no little interest at the College of Surgeons in seeing that its Fellows and Members were, at all events, without excuse for not being officially clothed on all suitable occasions of public ceremonial. I am inclined to think he was right in attaching some importance to academical costume.

To proceed, steady progress being made in public and professional esteem, the time shortly arrived when it was felt to be impossible, having regard to the future and the rapid strides medical science was taking in our own country and all over the civilised world, to further develop the School without having means on the spot for studying collateral branches of knowledge and carrying on research.

There was a strong feeling at that period

that if the profession of medicine was to hold its own with other scientific pursuits and employments for the youth of this district, if health and prevention of disease were to be primary considerations, no trouble or reasonable expense should be spared to give it of the best.

This was the contention of the Profession of Liverpool, and it contributed, I believe, in no small degree to give prominence to the want that was generally felt, and the necessity for pressing the claims of Higher Education and Research upon its citizens.

Up to this date, and for some time afterwards, the Medical School was conducted as a self-supporting institution in buildings belonging to and adjoining the Royal Infirmary. In return for this advantage the School was able to supplement the resident staff of the Infirmary by a sufficient number of competent dressers and clinical clerks selected from the students for fixed duties in the wards under the direction of their own Physicians and Surgeons. This kind of reciprocity worked well and fairly so far as both parties were concerned.

The financial position of the School permitted of the payment of a proportion of the students' fees to the respective Lecturers and Demonstrators. But this remuneration was

quite out of relation to the great amount of labour and time bestowed on teaching duties, and was a serious consideration, especially in its application to that most important element of a progressive medical school, namely, the junior staff.

Furthermore, it was recognised that at no distant date, having regard to the greatly extending area of work in some subjects, that it would be necessary to provide teachers who should be exclusively occupied in teaching and investigating, and not engaged, as hitherto had been the case, in carrying on private practice. Anatomy, physiology, and pathology are now taught in this way in addition to chemistry.

In the meantime, the spirit of progress which was animating the Medical School appeared to be having some influence on the public in promoting the cause of higher education generally. What had been done so well and successfully on a small scale by its citizens for their Medical School seemed worthy of trial on a much greater one.

This stage of public feeling and enterprise has been traced by Professor Campbell Brown, in his useful publication entitled the "First Page of the History of University College, Liverpool" (1892). The various proposals and suggestions for the incorporation of the School

with other educational bodies and the successive steps of its affiliation with University College are here outlined.

The completion of the new Royal Infirmary early in the eighties was an additional source of strength to the adjacent college. In the construction of this splendid monument to the fame of its architect, the late Mr. Alfred Waterhouse, R.A., born in Liverpool in 1830, Sir William Banks, in conjunction with his old colleague, the late Dr. Alexander Davidson, took the greatest personal interest. Both of these medical representatives on the building committee of the infirmary lived to see their work accomplished and greatly appreciated by all authorities on hospital construction.

It is to be desired in the best interest of medical progress and education in Liverpool that the long existing ties between the infirmary and the medical faculty of the University should be drawn as close as possible without unnecessarily narrowing the avenues of approach to the highest position in the former.

A hospital physician or surgeon should be expected in the present day, amongst other accomplishments, to know how to impart knowledge to others, otherwise his work as such will only be imperfectly done. We can all recall the "impressionists" of our student days.

Were they not those who eventually became, by their marvellous powers of diagnosis at the bed-side, and by their logical and experienced methods of explanation, clearly expressed, the examples and idols of our lives?

I am pleased to see, in the last Annual Report of the Council of the University, that representatives have been appointed to confer with the Committee of the Royal Infirmary on the relation of medical chairs in the University to the clinical organisation of the Infirmary. This subject is a most important one, second only, in my opinion, to the change that was made in Liverpool some years ago in the matter of hospital appointments generally, when the old scramble for a majority of the votes of the subscribers was abolished, and election by a special Committee substituted.

In the preface to the first calendar of University College, published in 1882, when Professor Rendall was Principal, will be found some interesting references to its early relations with the Medical School.

For instance, it states: "The members of the medical profession in Liverpool had also felt in their own particular experience that there was a real need for such an institution (University College), and to them, aided by not a few sympathisers outside of the profession, is

due in a very large measure the success of the efforts which resulted." Further, it narrates that the School brought with it a most material advantage to the resources of the new College in the shape of a donation from the Roger Lyon Jones Trust of £10,000 to found the chair of Experimental Physics.

In all that tended to promote higher education, and to bring about a cordial union between the Old School and University College, Banks, in conjunction with his colleagues, took the deepest and most active interest, and he lived to see his hopes and dreams realised.

Speaking of dreams, most of us remember the vision of Canon Lightfoot, afterwards the good Bishop of Durham. Would that he were here to compare what was once visionary with that which is now real. It is stated in the first calendar of the College, "In the pleasing form of a dream he (the Bishop) sketched with the enthusiasm of an antiquarian a feature of the life, and study, and stir of colleges in the past; then relinquishing the *rôle* of the historian for that of the seer he depicted the future College for Liverpool, with a grandeur of conception and an accuracy of detail which delighted and instructed all who heard him." If continuous and speculative thought relative to an object apparently beyond reach, as in

the early seventies Liverpool and a University seemed to be, is productive of dreams such as this, my dear friend Banks should have left me a volume of dreams certainly not less than that of the "Arabian Nights."

By the princely liberality of the citizens of Liverpool all these visions and dreams have been realised. A university has been raised and placed on a permanent basis, as a lasting memorial of all its benefactors.

It will be fitting here to briefly notice the financial support this College and University have received during the quarter of a century which has well-nigh elapsed since the former obtained its Charter of Incorporation on October 18, 1881. This information will be found in detail in the statement of receipts and expenditure and balance-sheet for 1904-5, which has recently been published.

The benefactions commence with the founding and endowing of seven professorships in 1881; this was followed by a gift of £30,000 for a site for a college by the Corporation of Liverpool. The total sum for sites and buildings given by various persons during the period mentioned amounts to £305,984 18s. 11d.

Twenty-six chairs in the various faculties of Arts, Science, Engineering, Law and Medicine, have been endowed with £10,000 a-piece, with

the exception of one chair, which is not quite completed, at a total cost of £249,361 3s. 11d. For the endowment of laboratories for Physiology, Pathology and Chemistry £10,825 3s. 11d. For a Library Fund £6,000. For four lectureships on different subjects £12,664 19s. 4d. These, together with some other donations, make a total sum given for College and University purposes during the last quarter of a century, or rather less, of £695,510 8s. 11d.

In addition, there are endowments for Fellowships and Scholarships (excluding City Council Scholarships now available for medical students) which yield nearly £1,300 a year for the benefit of medical science and improvement. It will be interesting when the time comes to compare this with what the next quarter of a century provides and the developments that take place to correspond, for no university can now afford to stand still.

Many of these splendid gifts for the promotion of higher education in Liverpool, and this part of the country more particularly, carry with them honoured and respected names of citizens and others, amongst whom we can include that of Her Most Gracious Majesty the late Queen Victoria.

Though these are records for any university city to be proud of, we hardly grasp, I think,

what is being done for medical and surgical research alone in America. Addressing the members of the International Congress of the Arts and Sciences at St. Louis last year, my friend, Dr. Frederick S. Dennis, a leader in Surgery in New York, and Professor there of Surgery in Cornell University, stated: "A century ago our country could boast of only two small medical schools, while now there are 154 medical schools affording instruction to 26,821 students last year, and nearly all of these medical schools are an integral part of some great University; 418,000,000 dols. scarcely represents the value of the property belonging to medical schools, and 8,000,000 dols. their endowment. It is a fact worthy of honourable mention that the wealthy men of the present century have contributed most liberally to the Science of Medicine, as is obvious from a record of different gifts and endowments amounting to many millions, especially during the past few years."

In his practical address at the Bristol Medical School, Dr. Osler, the Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, recently said: "There were three great requisites for the establishment of a University. First, capital; secondly, men; and thirdly, buildings—brass, brains and bricks.

"There were four great types of Universities. First, the Universities which had neither men nor money. Secondly, the Universities where there were men, but precious little money—and those often did the best work, as they saw in Scottish Universities. Thirdly, there were the Universities which had money, but no men, although one would hardly think that possible. Fourthly, there were Universities with money and men. He hoped that before they died Bristol would have a University with money and men worthy of the empire, and," he added, "it ought to be intimately worked with the medical institutions." I do not think we can have any hesitation in including the University of Liverpool in the fourth class.

I have incidentally referred in respect to the teaching of anatomy that Sir William Banks' aptitude and knowledge of this subject determined in a measure the line of surgery he so greatly excelled in.

Further, it should be noted that though his name is not associated with any striking discovery in surgical practice, such as those of John Hunter and Lord Lister, he not only made his mark in surgery, but some of his best work had a special reference to the place and circumstances in which he resided. In the doing of this he deserved well of his fellow-citizens, and

for this alone his name on this day especially should be held in remembrance.

It was a matter of common observation by those of us who at the time I am alluding to were connected with the great hospitals of this city, that cancer and hernia were common complaints in this part. My own experience at the Royal Infirmary for over twenty years' duration led me to believe that the proportion of both these affections was in excess of other districts.

The places and hamlets situated on the banks of the Mersey, for instance, furnished a large number of cancer cases, whilst the shipping industry connected with the extensive range of docks provided a large proportion of serious cases of hernia in all forms.

I do not know whether the latter still exist. It is not improbable that the introduction of machinery for loading and unloading ships has largely supplanted heavy manual labour. However, to improving the operations for cancer and for the radical cure of hernia, and adding to our resources in treatment, Banks devoted a great amount of attention with satisfactory results.

His first paper on malignant disease was read to the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association in 1877. His

energies, however, in investigating this disease and dealing with it operatively on more reasonable lines than had hitherto been generally applied, and coincidently with what I saw his friend, the younger Gross, practising in Philadelphia, did not stop here.

The next paper was read to the Worcester Meeting of the Association in 1882, when he narrated the results of forty-two cases; and the next to the Harveian Society, in 1887, when he presented eighty-two cases. He finally gave the Lettsomian Lectures at the Medical Society of London, on Cancer, in 1900.

I understand that almost up to the day of his death his investigations were continued and being prepared for publication, and it is hoped they will shortly be forthcoming. It is a matter of satisfaction to think that further research on the important subject our friend was engaged in will be promoted by a provision that has already been made, which will again be referred to in due course.

In looking over the constitution of this modern university, I was pleased to see that though providing as it should do for the study of Greek particles, conic sections, and various forms of mathematical calculi with which I regret to say I am unacquainted, it also emphatically states that "it shall promote Research."

I note in reviewing over the charters and statutes of several universities—some old and others new—research is made permissive, and not like Liverpool, obligatory. And this being so it points to the desirability of the University being well provided in respect to its several Faculties with those valuable supplementary means for following up investigations in the form of Scholarships and Exhibitions. Investigators and explorers are born and not made, and when discovered should be encouraged.

During the last few years universities have been founded in several large cities in England and Wales, well equipped with able teachers, solid buildings and some financial resources. It is to be hoped that research in its varied forms and directions may prove a distinctive feature of their work. Among other results, this would probably lead to a more thorough study of diseases incidental to their different localities, with advantage to the health of the population.

Though I do not purpose discussing the economical side of the question, there are grounds for believing that in many directions excellent financial results would follow the outlay of capital for this purpose.

On the last occasion when I was here some few weeks ago, at the opening of the New

Zoological Department, by Lord Onslow, I was rather taken by a plaintive story told by our good friend, Sir John Brunner, about some unfortunate mussels which had been sorely ill and useless for a long time.

The point about them was that they were researched, I am not sure whether it was by my friend Professor Herdman or not, but however, as a consequence of this their recovery was so complete that the fishermen made fortunes out of them, and much renown came to the University.

Now what the Professor did for the sick mussels and the now prosperous fishermen, we should like to see done on a larger scale for disease generally. It would probably work out in this way : the University and the Professors would get all the honour and glory, there would be no sick people, and in the good time coming—on the Chinaman principle—doctors and millionaires would be regarded as synonymous terms.

As we all know to our cost, disease is an expensive affair. I saw it stated in the *Times* the other day, on the authority of our fellow-citizen, Dr. Nathan Raw, that the working classes of London lost four millions annually in wages from consumption alone.

What ignorance, neglect of sanitary laws and

disease, amidst so much luxury, is costing this country yearly must amount to a very enormous sum. But what is far more serious than this is, that these are the chief factors making for the degeneracy of the race, which is sadly apparent in many directions, not excluding our national skill in some fields of sport where once we were supreme.

Liverpool, at the present moment, may be said to occupy a prominent place in the van of Research. I am limiting my observations to those forms of inquiry about which I am supposed to know something, as I have no intention of going outside that Faculty of the University which chiefly concerns me. On all sides and in all the Faculties there is abundance of scope for both "brains and brass."

By the munificence of Mr. T. Sutton Timmis a sum of £10,000 has been given for conducting, through a committee representing the Royal Infirmary and the University, research in reference to cancer. I have already indicated a reason why such a form of inquiry may be regarded as appropriate to a city whose hospitals receive so large a number of cases, wherever their source may be.

There can be no doubt that, in spite of long and patient investigation, the essential feature of this disease still remains unrecognised, and

that the only remedy which can in any degree be relied upon is early, and this may then mean complete, removal by operation.

Numerous as the conquests of Medicine and Surgery have become under the benign influences of anæsthetics and antiseptics, cancer still awaits the issue of perhaps long and laborious research and time tests, both in the sick wards and in the laboratory. Success may even be at our doors ; on the other hand, it may be indefinitely postponed.

In the meantime the duty of the community is clear ; to see that no stone is left unturned or money spared until the profession can, as a body, proclaim, with no uncertain sound, that "research has explained cancer."

As indicating the great importance that the profession of medicine is attaching to this movement, I will not omit to refer to similar efforts that are also being made of a national character by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which was organised in 1902, under the auspices of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

By the fostering influence of these bodies on the progress of Medicine and Surgery generally, by means of the various places of medical education at home and abroad and in touch with them, as forming part of their educational

system, which from time to time is being importantly added to, and by their large body of diplomates literally scattered over the whole face of the globe, it is hoped from these several sources that valuable aid and information relative to this disease may be forthcoming.

It may interest some to be informed that Liverpool has been for many years, through its Medical School officially and, I may add, personally, connected with both of these distinguished Corporations. A considerable proportion of our graduates continue to avail themselves of the conjoint diploma of these Colleges.

The Treasurer of the College of Physicians, Sir Dyce Duckworth, a born citizen of Liverpool, is a member of our Court; the past President of the College of Surgeons, Sir Henry Howse, also occupied a similar position, and his successor, Mr. Tweedy, favoured us with his presence and speech on a recent occasion, when Lord Kelvin honoured the University by opening the new anatomical department.

Further, the Liverpool profession includes many recipients of the most coveted professional distinctions these Colleges can confer. For sixteen years continuously a member of the staff of the Royal Infirmary and the Medical School occupied a seat on the Council of

the College of Surgeons, and it is hoped that ere long this relationship will be renewed. With Sir William Banks I had the honour of taking part in this representation.

Again, research in Liverpool has been, and is being, applied with great and increasing advantage to those conditions of ill-health known as tropical diseases. In the promotion of this object the community is largely indebted to Sir Alfred Jones for the vigour and enterprise he has brought to bear upon this movement and the generous aid he has given it.

No one can be more alive to the necessity for the objects aimed at by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine than myself. For twenty-five years, which almost represented the period of my residential life in Liverpool, as medical officer for quarantine for this port I spent innumerable days and nights on the Mersey, often in open boats, in pursuit of the yellow fever and the plague.

Though during this long experience I rarely met with these terrible disorders, I frequently encountered other undesirables in the way of typhus, typhoid, African, colon and jungle fevers, dysentery, cholera, beri-beri, and the like, which, when discovered, and not coming under the limitations of the old Quarantine Acts, I carefully handed over, as instructed, to

my friend, Dr. Hope, or one of his predecessors, for their special study and delight.

In this way a large amount of infectious and noxious disease was prevented entering Liverpool, unless under official supervision, with but little interruption to the passenger traffic.

The old quarantine laws, which, I understand, have recently been repealed, were terrors in their way, and have been replaced by more certain methods of dealing with importations of disease at our large seaports.

I once got into serious trouble about a ship from the Brazils I had quarantined in the Sloyne, on the suspicion of yellow fever. The trouble arose not because I had detained her, but for the reason that I was not able, for the life of me, at a moment's notice, to prescribe the legal process by which she was to be liberated. This incident led to a better method of dealing with vessels under suspicion.

About the time I am referring to the condition of vessels arriving from the West Coast of Africa especially was often very serious, by reason of the entire crew being struck down with various forms of fever, commencing shortly after starting, and not abating until a colder region had been reached. Ships with many lives and much valuable property were often lost in this way.

Research, relative to some of the most terrible scourges to which certain places and the marine industry are liable, has been already followed by most gratifying results.

A remarkable illustration of this will be found recorded in the *Times* of November 20, where it is stated that, "As the result of the work of Governor Magoon and Colonel Dr. Gorgas, since last May, yellow fever has been eliminated from the isthmus of Panama." The moral from this record is that sanitary laws in their application permit of no half measures or compromises. It is probable, had not President Roosevelt taken the matter in hand energetically, and given his new commissioners absolute autocratic powers, this miserable state of affairs would have been allowed to continue.

I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Colonel Gorgas two years ago, when, as the representative of Great Britain, I attended the first Egyptian Medical Congress in Cairo, and heard him describe in detail how he dealt with yellow fever in Havana, and exterminated it there.[1] He seems to have brought this process down to the level of an exact science.

It is pleasant to think that in promoting

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[1] *Premier Congrès Égyptien de Médecine*, vol. i., *Pathologie Interne*, 1904.

Tropical research relative to disease Liverpool has been able, in the persons of Major Ross, Professor Boyce and others, to materially aid its foreign friends during periods of serious epidemics. This is a form of *entente cordiale* which is much to be encouraged.

In the course of numerous visits to the United States I have seen something of their Universities and hospitals. I refer amongst the former to Columbia, Cornell and Harvard. It has always struck me on these occasions that on the other side of the Atlantic these institutions adapt themselves more readily to existing requirements than ours do. And more than this they anticipate what later on will be pressed upon them.

Speaking of American universities, it was stated in the *Times* of November 18, 1905, under the heading "Educational Notes": "In 1899-1900 there were 7,953 commercial students in the Universities and Colleges of the United States of America, an increase of 1,490 on the previous year."

How far a university life, and I mean a specialised life, which ends at or about the age of puberty, may be made to take the place of the old-fashioned commercial routine which commenced with "polishing up the handle of the big front door," and often ended in

the millionaire, is a problem I cannot attempt to discuss. It must be left for experience to determine. It seems, however, that it is being tried on a large scale by our Transatlantic neighbours, who, I have no doubt, have good reasons for doing so.

A university seems to me to resemble a habitable house in many respects. There is the building, and in addition to this the fixtures, as a landlord would call them, and also the furniture.

I think all universities, both ancient and modern, are fairly well agreed about "the fixtures," though Greek has recently had some ugly knocks. It is in the furniture department that the Americans seem somewhat ahead of us. The furniture in a modern house has commonly direct reference to the wants and even fashions of the day. We light our houses now by electricity and dispose of our candlesticks, and in other respects substitute a new order of things.

Of course there are those who prefer the antique to the modern, and so convert their houses into elegant museums, more or less representative of bygone ages. These are benefactors of their kind whom it would be impossible to dispense with.

I have looked over this university carefully,

and I can assure you there is nothing about it which should be relegated to a museum, but a harmony in design and colour between fixtures and furniture which neither "the moderate" nor "the progressist" is at all likely to disturb.

To one who has known Liverpool intimately for nearly half a century, for it was in 1859 that I received my first appointment here, it is a great pleasure to look back for a moment at the past—to call to recollection matters which are historical, and also have a professional interest attached to them.

For instance, to note the rise and development of a great educational movement, which has culminated in the erection and endowment of a vigorous modern University.

To witness the founding of a Tropical School of Medicine under Royal auspices.

To bear testimony to the marvellous improvement that has taken place under able leadership in the sanitary condition and death-rate of a city which, at one time in my recollection, stood very low on the lists.

To recognise that the three great hospitals of the city, in two of which I served, have been swept away and replaced with modern buildings fully equipped medically up to the line of to-day ; and lastly,

To find the best provision for the care of those who fall sick or wounded "by the way-side," by means of an ambulance organisation for the whole city, which also serves as probably the best model for other places.

In the course of these remarks it has been my endeavour, either by expression or thought, in passing from one topic to another, here and there, to trace the movements of the now still hand of our friend, whose memory this University, for the first time in this form, to-day recalls.

Permit me, in conclusion, for a few moments, to occupy your time by some personal recollections, which may be of service to those who may follow me.

As years pass over our heads the number of those who knew Sir William Banks as a colleague in the full vigour of his life and work will sensibly—nay, rapidly—diminish. Others will address you in succession from this place with, perhaps, little or no knowledge of his personality, but in more eloquent and appropriate terms than I can lay claim to.

It has been said, with truth, that "manners maketh the man." In applying this to our deceased friend I do not say that he had pre-eminently what has been referred to humorously as "good bedside manners."

Though kind and sympathetic to a degree to all who were ill, Banks laid no claim to this distinction ; in fact, he often expressed his admiration to me of an old Liverpool doctor, who, in the days of our youth, occasionally rather shocked society by his Abernethian ways. I need hardly say I refer to the late Mr. James Long, for whom the parents and grandparents of many present here to-day had a most affectionate and appreciative regard.

As a speaker, whether in debate at the Council of the College of Surgeons, where for some years we constantly met, and at the General Medical Council, where I used occasionally to hear him from the gallery, Banks was fluent, honest and convincing.

As an after-dinner speaker he was excellent and could hardly be surpassed. He possessed a fund of amusement and wit in his well-selected stories, which were told crisply and without sting. His power and method of speech would have commanded success at the Bar, and I sincerely hope and believe that this feature will descend from father to son.

Some of his public utterances not only showed his versatility, but were charming examples of composition, expressed in good plain English, with much pathos and sympathy. He not infrequently treated a "full dress"

medical audience, somewhat unexpectedly, to a discourse singularly free from what is known as "shop." Witness his address to the students of the Yorkshire College at Leeds in 1892, entitled the "Gentle Doctor," and his oration before the Medical Society of London on "Physic and Letters," 1893. An excursion with some friends, and known to them as "A Voyage of the Argonauts," is a good sample of how descriptive and entertaining he could write in this line.

Profound scholarship, gifted attainments in scientific and professional pursuits, are often marred in their application to our daily life and wants by personal characteristics which repel rather than attract.

Banks, whether at work or at leisure, was a *persona grata* of the highest type. He drew persons to him by an attraction of his own. Nor did this feature always take the form of the "*facilis in modo*"; there was plenty of the "*fortiter in re*" in reserve, if necessary, for emergencies, or when applied for the advantage of those opinions or persons whose cause he befriended. Like other persons, he was not always right, and then it was difficult to convince him he was wrong. But whether right or wrong he always respected an honest resister.

He had the courage of his convictions, and

as age advanced this characteristic was not infrequently publicly avowed. "Were I a younger man," he remarked, in a professional address, "I would not dare to say this."

Of his many distinctions the one which appeared to give him the greatest satisfaction and pleasure was the LL.D. of his old University, a pleasure which was only equalled by that of his numerous friends when our late most beloved and gracious Queen Victoria conferred upon him the well-deserved honour of knighthood. He was the first member of the medical profession in Liverpool to receive this distinction.

Permit me to take this opportunity to offer my hearty congratulations to the President of the Liverpool Medical Institution, Sir James Barr, on being the second recipient of this honour.

Tradition speaks of Banks as a boxer, an oarsman, and a climber. I only knew him in the world of athletics as a Childwall quoiter, a Wallasey golfer, and a ubiquitous cyclist. I have recent recollections of an exciting foursome on a neighbouring links near a certain hospitable bungalow, in which my two departed friends, Sir William MacCormac and Sir William Banks, successfully opposed your humble servant and a local sportsman of great

renown, who was much chagrined by my want of form on this special occasion only. With this dear remembrance I will bring my address to a close in the appropriate words of the first calendar as then applied to what is now the University of Liverpool. May it continue to prove "a centre of culture, sound learning and good fellowship."