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DEATH OF MR. S. M. BURROUGHS.

A TELEGRAM reached us on Wednesday morning from Mr. Naftel, chemist, of Monte Carlo, conveying the sad intelligence that Mr. S. M. Burroughs had died in that city that morning from pneumonia. On inquiry at Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s office at Snow Hill, we ascertained that the illness must have been very brief. The firm had been advised on the previous afternoon that Mr. Burroughs was ill, but, it was added, there was no immediate danger. Mr. Burroughs was staying at the Hotel Windsor, Monte Carlo, and his sister, Mrs. Riggs, of New York, was with him. She was wintering in the south of France on account of her health, and Mr. Burroughs had gone to the Riviera to spend a few weeks with her. Immediately on receiving news of his illness, Mrs. Burroughs hurried from London to join her husband, but, of course, she could not arrive in time to see him alive, and probably only learned of the fatal termination of his illness when she reached Monte Carlo.

By this calamity we lose from among us, at the early age of 48, the most original, the most attractive, and the most widely known personality in the ranks of pharmacy. Mr. Burroughs's circle of acquaintance was marvellous. He had friends, intimate friends, in every part of the world. Wherever he went—and he went everywhere—he attracted round him numbers of people who never forgot him, and very many who came to love him. He never seemed to recognise any distinction of rank. He was just as free and vivacious in the society of rich and eminent people as amid a group of working men. His energy and flow of spirits seemed inexhaustible. He only came to London in 1877, and laid the foundations of the business which, with the aid of his partner, Mr. Wellcome, and of a most wisely selected staff of chiefs of departments, has probably been the greatest success ever achieved in pharmacy. And as indicative of the original ideas of its founder it should be remembered that this business when started was of a new character altogether. The methods by which it was carried on were all unconventional, and the products were practically novelties. It was not merely a case of travelling faster on the road to success than rivals were progressing; Mr. Burroughs made his own road, and it has become a highway.

Mr. Burroughs had a perfect genius of enterprise. He knew and interested himself in every department of his business, and imported new ideas and new methods into it almost daily. But his business activities never appeared to impede him in other directions. Perhaps he was never known to send the message to any caller that he was "too busy" to

attend to some matter, though he was always what others would consider up to his neck in affairs of various kinds. He seemed to live half-a-dozen other lives. When he was once known, no social, political, or religious function seemed complete without him, and we should think it was a rare thing for him to refuse an invitation or an appeal. He was always the favourite guest at a ball or a dinner-party, but he took his part with at least equal zest in a multitude of works of social beneficence which had commanded his sympathy. He had adopted with enthusiasm the views on land-taxation of which his friend Mr. Henry George is the apostle. He spent money lavishly on the

promulgation of these ideas, and he was often an effective speaker on the subject. But he could discuss the topic with opponents in so genial a manner that, if he did not convert them, he left them with a strong desire on their part to renew the argument. The only effect his commercial prosperity had upon him was to give him opportunity to exercise his unbounded generosity. We write what we know when we say that no more faithful or unselfish friend lived in Europe or America, and many of his business competitors will endorse our belief that they never met a more honourable or chivalric rival.

Mr. Burroughs was a not infrequent visitor at THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST office, and the announcement of his untimely death leaves a sense of personal loss with every member both of the editorial and publishing staffs.

Mr. Silas Mainville Burroughs was born at Medina, New York State, in December, 1846. His father was a man of considerable influence, and was at one time a member of the United States Legislature. Young Burroughs was first employed in a chemist's and druggist's establishment in Lockport, New York, but subsequently went to Philadelphia and graduated at the famous old College of that city, where he had been one of the late Professor Maisch's pupils. For some years he represented Messrs. Wyeth Brothers, of Philadelphia, and travelled all over the United States for that firm. He came to London in 1877 on a joint arrangement between Messrs. Wyeth Brothers and himself. His original idea was to spend six or twelve months on this side, and perhaps establish an agency or dépôt. But he saw an opening, and having capital of his own he determined to risk it on the establishment of a business for the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations. Arrangements were made whereby the business became exclusively his; but in 1880 Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, also a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, joined





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him as a partner. Mr. Burroughs then took a business journey round the world, and laid the foundation of the extensive foreign connection which the firm has since built up. The growth of the business has been rapid and continuous, and its extent may be imagined by anyone who visits the offices, crowded with clerks, typewriters, and bookkeepers, at Snow Hill, or who sees from the railway the picturesque factory at Dartford, or who makes a tour through those works crammed with costly machinery and occupied by hundreds of busy and—what was of equal importance in the estimation of the late head—cheerful workers.

We have made slight allusion to the lavish liberality of Mr. Burroughs. This, it should be stated, was not limited to any creed or party or nation. He was a liberal donor to the Pharmaceutical Society's Benevolent Fund; to the Dartford Cottage Hospital, now being erected, he contributed £1,000; he helped to support a number of religious and charitable institutions in his native town; and scarcely a day passed that he was not assisting some good object or poor person. His business instincts, keen as they were, were always in subordination to Christian and philanthropic impulses, and the report of his death will leave many a grateful heart sorrowful. The wholesale trade had heard of it in the course of the day, and it was the universal topic of conversation on Wednesday, and, as will be seen from our report of the Pharmaceutical Council's meeting, Mr. Carteghe made a fitting allusion to the event before commencing the day's proceedings. Mr. Burroughs, who was married in 1884 to Miss Olive Chase, of Western, New York State, leaves a widow and three young children.

The *Sun* of Wednesday evening reports that Mr. Burroughs "was seen a couple of weeks ago by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, an old friend, and he appeared to be in the best of health and spirits. During his trip he paid several visits to Mr. Wm. Saunders, who was lying seriously ill at the Riviera, and the two ardent land reformers agreed on a programme of propaganda for their favourite ideal. It is a pathetic fact that the young and apparently strong man has thus pre-deceased the septuagenarian who appeared to be so near the end."

Personalities.

MR. JOHN MCKESSON, of McKesson & Robbins, is recovering from a serious febrile illness, and proposes to recruit in Europe.

DR. THOMAS STEVENSON, the Privy Council visitor to the Pharmaceutical examinations, has been elected President of the Society of Public Analysts.

MR. ROBERT GREEN, retired chemist, of Brewer Street, Woolwich, has been elected by the Woolwich Union Board of Guardians, of which he has for some years been a member, Chairman of the Infirmary Committee for the ensuing six months.

IN reporting the prosecution at Chesterfield, last week, of Mr. T. H. Bradley, in reference to the sale of prussic acid, we remarked that no one of that name appeared on the register of chemists and druggists. Mr. Bradley writes to us saying that he has ascertained that his name is erroneously printed on the register as Thomas Henry Bradder. We find this statement is correct.

MR. D. B. COLDWELL, chemist and druggist, late of Malvern, but now of Dorking, has been presented with an illuminated address and silver model of a cycle in recognition of his services as captain of the Malvern Cycling Club for several years past. Mr. Coldwell has now resigned the captaincy in consequence of his removal from the town, but will remain a member of the club.

"Wx (*Indianrubber and Guttapercha Journal*) understand that a member of the firm of Messrs. A. & F. Pears, together with an associate inventor, have been successful in manufacturing a perfectly fireproof celluloid from spent fibres from paper-mills, which they are proposing to manufacture on a large scale." We presume that Mr. Andrew Pears, who is an accomplished chemist, is the gentleman referred to.

MR. C. GODDARD CLARKE, J.P., of the firm of Potter & Clarke has accepted an invitation to contest the Brixton division as a Progressive at the London County Council election on March 2. No colleague has yet been chosen to run with Mr. Clarke, but the Moderates have two men in the field already. Brixton is represented in the present Council by two Progressives, both of whom retire. Besides Brixton, Hammersmith and Dulwich contended for the honour of securing Mr. Clarke as a candidate.

MR. J. W. BLACK, chemist, of Sydenham, who, as we reported last week, was prosecuted by the Inland Revenue authorities in respect of the sale of an embrocation unstamped, informs us that the embrocation was not of his own manufacture, and that the makers have since heard from Somerset House that instructions have been given to withdraw the summons. The proprietors of the embrocation state that they have in their possession one of the labels which had been stamped by the Board "Not liable to duty."

THE "New Australia" socialist colony in Paraguay, which was started eighteen months ago, appears to have got safely through its teething days, and is now said to be fairly successful. Its pharmaceutical necessities are looked after by Mr. (or rather "Mate") George Napier Birks, formerly of Adelaide, where for many years he owned one of the chief pharmacies of that city. Mr. Birks enthusiastically threw himself into the New Australia movement, to which he ceded all his worldly possessions, and went out, though no longer a young man, to Paraguay with his wife and sons. He is now one of the trustees of the colony.

APPENDED is a portrait of the young man who, under the name of T. W. Taaffe, obtained a situation with Mr. W.



Charrington, chemist, Lichfield, and who is now wanted on a charge of robbery. (See report last week, page 169.)

A MIXTURE TO BE AVOIDED.—A Philadelphia druggist was experimenting on the action of ammonia-water with oxide of silver, and had left the mixture in a porcelain basin covered with water and a glass rod. By-and-by he returned to his operation, and was replacing the rod in the basin when a violent explosion occurred, shattering the basin, pieces of which struck him in the face, causing damage which it was feared would result in the loss of one or both of his eyes. It was "Berthollet's fulminating silver" which he had succeeded in making.

