

In memoriam Ernest Hart, M.R.C.S., D.C.L. for over thirty years editor of the British Medical Journal and for twenty-five years Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association / [Ernest Hart].

Contributors

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To Mr. Melrose
from Mrs. Sweetland

In Memoriam

There shall never be one lost good! What was, shall live as before,
The evil is null, is nought, is silence implying sound;
What was good, shall be good, with, for evil, so much good more;
On earth the broken arc; in the heaven, a perfect round.

ROBERT BROWNING.

ERNEST HART,

M.R.C.S., D.C.L.

For over Thirty Years

EDITOR OF

The British Medical Journal

And for twenty-five years Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association.

BORN JUNE, 1835. DIED JANUARY, 1898.

From the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, January 15th and 22nd, 1898; the *Jewish Chronicle*,
January 14th, 1898; and other sources.

LONDON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 429, STRAND.

1898.



John Tyndall
Met Stan

In Memoriam

ERNEST HART, D.C.L.

[From the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.]

THE COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON MR. HART'S WORK AND DEATH.

At the meeting of the Council of the British Medical Association on January 19th, Dr. SAUNDBY, the President of Council, referred to the death of Mr. Ernest Hart in the following terms:¹

"Since we last met the Association has sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Ernest Hart. For more than thirty years he has not only been the able and accomplished Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, but he has been the originator of nearly every development by which our Association has expanded itself and become more useful to the medical profession in its broader and more scientific as well as in its corporate relations. To illustrate what I mean I have only to name the Scientific Grants Committee, the Parliamentary Bills Committee, and this library which we see around us, and to remind you that they all owed their initiation and their guidance through many years to his untiring personal supervision, his ability, and energy. He has died no longer young, having lived a life full of purpose, having accomplished many things. He has lived to see this Association reach a pitch of prosperity which he probably never anticipated. How greatly this success has been directly due to the popularity attained by the JOURNAL under his editorship none of us will be disposed to question. A man's life is soon spent, but institutions last long enough to use up many generations. We shall all pass away, yet when the last of us has gone we hope this Association will still be evergreen and flourishing. In it Mr. Hart possesses a monument of the noblest kind, and in this Council room he will be always remembered as one of those who did most to make the Association what it is to-day. I beg to move the following resolution:

"The Council desires to convey to Mrs. Ernest Hart its expression of deep sympathy with her in the loss she has sustained, and to place on record its recognition of the memorable services rendered by Mr. Ernest Hart to this Association during his tenure of the office of Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for more than thirty years."

This resolution was passed unanimously.

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.²

Ernest Hart was born in London, of Jewish parents, in June, 1835. His father was in good practice as a dentist in the West of London, and his elder brother, who died in 1882, followed the same profession. Hart himself was educated at the City of London School, then rapidly rising in reputation and efficiency under the vigorous headmastership of the Rev. Canon Mortimer, who regarded him as one of his most promising pupils, and had a warm regard for him. He would have gone to one of the universities (Cambridge probably) with a scholarship, had it been possible then for a Jew to take his degree.

After the termination of a career of unusual distinction, he left the City school, as Captain, and soon afterwards entered at Mr. Lane's Grosvenor Place School of Medicine, and it was here (writes Mr. Timothy Holmes) that I made his acquaintance. He was then a most promising student, full of energy and intelligence, and it was during his student career that Hart's first public service was rendered. The degraded condition of the juniors in the Naval Medical Service was attracting public attention, and was the cause of an unpopularity of that service which was very detrimental to the efficiency of the navy itself. A society of medical students was formed, chiefly through Ernest Hart's exertions, at St. George's and the other hospitals, and of this society he was Secretary and I was Chairman. It proved most successful. We were warmly backed up by Colonel Boldero and other members of Parliament. We collected funds, held public meetings—at which, amongst many others, our then Senior Physician, Dr. J. A. Wilson, one of the most effective of platform orators, spoke; we organised and presented petitions; and ultimately were able to give notice of Parliamentary action with so strong a backing that the Government of the day recognised the justice of our claims and conceded all that was asked. The Students' Society ended in complete success and with a handsome sum in hand, which was distributed to medical charities. Hart did not serve as House-Surgeon at St. George's, but at St. Mary's in 1856. He became afterwards Surgical Registrar at St. George's—probably with some idea of connecting himself with the School; but the duties were not congenial to him, and he attached himself thenceforth to St. Mary's, where he became Ophthalmic Surgeon (1861-1868), and afterwards Aural Surgeon (1865-1868), and Dean of the Medical School from 1863-1869, when his connection with the St. Mary's School ceased.

He entered at first into consulting and operative surgical practice, both in ophthalmic and in general surgery, with much zeal and with very fair promise of success. He had

¹ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, JANUARY 22ND, 1898.

² By Mr. Timothy Holmes, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, JANUARY 15TH 1898.

very good connections among the Jewish community, and married a lady of good Jewish family, who died two years after marriage. He was also assisted with introductions to practice by Mr. Coulson, who was then doing a very large practice in the City, but used at that time only to attend personally in the daytime, and leave all the rest of his business to Ernest Hart and another gentleman, who acted as his assistants.

As a proof of his activity and ingenuity in practical surgery I may mention his proposal for the cure of popliteal aneurysm by flexion of the knee-joint, which was illustrated by two successful cases recorded in the 42nd volume of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*—his own (original) case and one by Mr. Shaw. I was in consultation with him over the original case, and can testify that the plan was at that time quite new to himself and to us all, though it seems to have been tried on the Continent successfully in the previous year. It was at the time a real advance in the treatment of popliteal aneurysm, and I have employed it with great success; but the far greater impunity which now attends surgical operations has thrown the bloodless methods into relative obscurity. But, however fair might be his prospects of success in private practice, his strength lay elsewhere, and it was in more public employments that his chief distinctions were to be gained.

He was at this time working for the *Lancet*, and was a member, along with Dr. Anstie and Dr. Carr, of a Commission appointed by it to investigate the condition of nursing in the Poor-law infirmaries of London. He had the valued assistance of Dr. Joseph Rogers. The revelations made by this Commission produced such a public sensation that the Home Secretary of that day (Mr. Gathorne Hardy, now Lord Cranbrook) nominated a Committee of physicians and surgeons, presided over by Sir T. Watson, to visit the various workhouse infirmaries of the city and report to him. It was on this report that "Gathorne Hardy's Act" was founded—an Act which has actually produced an enormous improvement in the medical treatment of paupers in London, and, through the creation of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, has exercised a most beneficial influence on the health of the whole town. That improvement has spread and is spreading by the force of example to the infirmaries throughout the country. And, if it were not for the ingrained unpopularity of everything connected with the Poor Law, the out-patient dispensaries established under the Act would be a most important factor in lessening the abuse of the hospital out-patient system. Ernest Hart's share in this great work is one of his earliest and best titles to the gratitude of the public. And I believe that the present provisions for the compulsory notification of infectious disease—provisions the importance of which can hardly be exaggerated, especially in our crowded cities, are largely due to Mr. Hart's advocacy and to the principles which he laid down in his Reports on the Hospitals of the State, and on the Workhouse Infirmaries prior to Gathorne Hardy's Act.

Mr. Hart's influence as a sanitary reformer was immensely increased when in 1866 he succeeded Dr. Markham, on his appointment to the office of Medical Inspector under the Local Government Board, as Editor of this JOURNAL. And the benefit was mutual. If Hart gained power by his command of an independent organ of public and professional opinion, and by the support of a great organisation, which he knew so well how to strengthen, the JOURNAL and the Association derived even greater benefit from his vigorous writing, his intimate knowledge of journalism, and his almost instinctive sagacity in selecting useful subjects for public discussion, and in directing such discussion to a good result.

In the year 1883 a meeting took place at Grosvenor House, under the presidency of the Duke of Westminster, at which a portrait of her husband, by Frank Holl, R.A., from 500 subscribers, was presented to Mrs. Ernest Hart. In the address which accompanied the presentation, Mr. Hart's services to the medical officers of the navy were especially dwelt upon; and it was also shown that he had been hardly less serviceable to those of the army and the Poor Law, and to the medical officers of health. The account of that meeting given in this JOURNAL for April 14th, 1883, is well worthy of the perusal of anyone who wishes to form an idea of the extent and of the success of Mr. Hart's labours on behalf,

not of his own profession only, but of all the human race. One who knew him well (Canon Barnett) said on that occasion that he well remembered Mr. Hart saying to him, ten years previously, that "he hoped to leave the world a little better than he found it." It was a noble hope, and the members of this Association know how indefatigably and how successfully he strove to realise it.

In all these efforts he was sympathetically assisted by his wife, a daughter of Mr. A. W. Rowland of Lower Sydenham, whom he married in 1872, and who survives him. Mrs. Hart has herself received a medical education, and could take an intelligent share in all his pursuits and tastes.

HIS WORK FOR THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.³

In order to appreciate correctly the value of the services rendered to the Association and the JOURNAL by Mr. Ernest Hart, it would be necessary to write a history of the Association for the last thirty years, but some idea may be formed by comparing the state of matters before his appointment and that which exists at the present time. When he first entered upon his duties as Editor the Association had only about 2,000 members, although it had existed about thirty-four years; it has now upwards of 19,000 members. The JOURNAL then consisted of twenty pages; now it has sixty-four pages and of larger size.

My first acquaintance with him (writes Dr. Barnes, of Carlisle) dates from 1868. We were about to form a medical society at Carlisle, and I entered into a correspondence with Mr. Hart. At that time we only had about half-a-dozen members of the Association resident in this district, but at a large meeting which was held for the purpose of considering the matter, a letter which I had received from Mr. Hart was read, in which he so clearly showed the advantages of membership of the Association, that a resolution to form a Branch was almost unanimously adopted. In my capacity as secretary to the newly formed Branch I was for seven years a member of the Committee of Council, and subsequently for several years I had the honour of representing the Branch on the Council. In this way I had many opportunities of meeting Mr. Hart, and seeing him at his work. He always impressed me as being sincerely anxious to promote the prosperity of the Association and the success of the JOURNAL, and he would willingly take any amount of trouble with these objects in view. He had also the capacity of attracting to his aid those best qualified to do good service, and from small beginnings the staff has gone on increasing, and now includes, in addition to the permanent editorial assistants, a large number of experts—many of them men of high standing and eminent authority.

Mr. Ernest Hart, in addition to holding for twenty-five years the office of Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee, acted for many years as Honorary Secretary of the Scientific Grants Committee. He was a staunch advocate of the policy of devoting annually a sum out of the income of the Association to the encouragement of research in pathology and other departments of science nearly related to medicine. For many years he took an active part in promoting the work of the Committee, and was a strong supporter of the proposal to appoint Research Scholars. His connection with the Committee terminated a few years ago, but its formation was in no small measure due to his initiative.

Another evidence of Mr. Hart's unceasing desire to increase the usefulness of the British Medical Association and add to the advantages which attach to membership was afforded by the action which he took in 1887 to procure the foundation of a library. The scheme had been for some time in his mind when, in July, 1887, he addressed a letter to the then President of Council, Sir Walter Foster, suggesting the formation of a library and reading room for the use of members, and offering his own services and resources in carrying out the proposal. The Council accepted the suggestion, and nominated a Library Committee. Mr. Hart from the first acted as Honorary Librarian, and took a great interest in the selection and collection of books. His own contributions to the collection were numerous and valuable. He introduced a system of exchange of duplicate copies with other medical libraries, and arranged to obtain the Paris *thèses* as

³ By Dr. H. Barnes, late President of the British Medical Association.

they are published. The library has grown under his fostering care, until it now comprises over 10,000 volumes, including many valuable sets of periodicals. That it is appreciated by members is shown by the fact that the number of persons who visit the reading room exceeds 5,000 a year, and that the number during the last quarter shows that a steady growth continues.

AS EDITOR OF THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."

Of Mr. Hart's work as Editor of this JOURNAL this is, perhaps, not the time or the place to speak at any length, but those who have been intimately associated with him, and have worked for him and under him in the conduct of the JOURNAL, may take this opportunity of briefly testifying to the intense interest which he took in everything that concerned it. To it he gave unstintingly of the best that was in him. No trouble was too great, and a question affecting the JOURNAL was always allowed to take precedence of any other. Proud as he was of its success he was yet ever seeking improvement, and no suggestion to this end could come before him which he did not weigh and carefully consider.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BILLS COMMITTEE.

As Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, a position which he occupied from 1872 to 1897, he systematically studied and fearlessly criticised all proposals for legislation affecting the medical profession and the public health of the community, and many are the amendments of dangerous or inadequate proposals which have been secured in Bills before Parliament, whilst many also are the measures which he and the Parliamentary Bills Committee have been instrumental in bringing before Parliament and successfully adding to the statute book. The interests of medical officers of health, and through them of the public health of the community, have always found in Mr. Hart a staunch champion. His address on "Local Government as it is, and as it ought to be," read at the Sanitary Congress at Leicester in 1885, showed clearly the pressing need for local government reform and the lines on which it should be carried out; and when, in 1888, the Bill for reform of local government in England and the establishment of a system of county councils throughout the country was before Parliament, he was instrumental in securing several important additions and amendments to it. He sought to secure the general appointment of county medical officers of health, but the clause actually embodied in the Act was only a limping concession to his advocacy. In the following year, supported by the Scotch Association of Medical Officers of Health, he and the Parliamentary Bills Committee were more successful, and secured in the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1889 the recognition of the principle of stability of tenure for the medical officer of health, a principle which has been since recognised in the Public Health (London) Act of 1891 and in the Public Health (Scotland) Act of 1897. His efforts had also much to do with the passing of the Infectious Disease Notification Act of 1889.

AS A SANITARIAN.

In the sphere of public health and preventive medicine Mr. Ernest Hart has been one of the foremost leaders of the reforms which have been secured during the past quarter of a century. At the commencement of his career the public mind had not yet fully grasped the great principles of sanitation, although the persistent efforts of the earlier reformers—Southwood Smith, Chadwick, Simon, and others—were beginning to take effect. Mr. Hart brought his keen intellect to bear on the glaring evils of the time, and by a persistent attack on one blot after another he let light into many of the dark corners of our social life. He had the not too common gift of seizing the most favourable opportunity for securing attention to glaring evils, and he had the tact and courage to persevere until the reforms he had in view were attained.

THE PART HE TOOK IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITALS OF THE STATE.

His first great effort was on behalf of the sick poor in our metropolitan workhouses, and it is curious to note that one of his latest crusades was to expose the shortcomings of a

large proportion of our provincial workhouses and infirmaries, and to seek to secure for the sick poor in those institutions the more rational and humane treatment, which thirty years ago he successfully assisted in securing for the sick poor of London. It was in 1865, that Mr. Hart, then one of the editorial staff of the *Lancet*, co-operated with Dr. Anstie, Dr. Carr, and Dr. Joseph Rogers in an investigation for that journal into the condition of the sick poor in the metropolitan workhouse infirmaries. In an article in the *Fortnightly Review* on the "Hospitals of the State" he forcibly drew attention to the barbarities of the system then prevailing. Soon afterwards he took part in forming the Metropolitan Workhouse Infirmaries Reform Association, and he led the crusade which, eighteen months later, culminated in the passing of Mr. Gathorne Hardy's Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867, an Act which led to the creation of the Metropolitan Asylums system, the erection throughout the metropolis of separate infirmary buildings administered as, what they are now admitted to be, "Hospitals of the State," and the classification of the sick in wards apart from the lunatics, imbeciles, able-bodied, and infectious patients.

Many of the larger provincial cities profited by the metropolitan lessons, and gradually reformed their Poor-law methods, but a few years ago Mr. Hart realised that the better and more humane results, which had been secured in the larger centres of population, were still unknown in many of the remoter country workhouses, where still frequently no proper system of trained nursing was to be found, where the sick poor were too often left to the tender mercies of a few ignorant paupers, and where the accommodation was still deplorable. It was his opinion that more would be accomplished in the direction of reform by publishing a series of articles describing the inside of the Union infirmaries and their inmates than by any indictment based on generalised statements. By this means he endeavoured, in the first instance, to arouse local sympathy or even local hostility, and at the same time to draw the attention of the Local Government Board, through the agency of an educated public opinion, to well-authenticated instances of maladministration or positive neglect. The success that attended this method is too recent to need much comment. The very fearlessness which challenged opponents, by placing unpalatable facts before them, attracted public attention, and when he emphasised the perfunctory manner in which the official inspections were often carried out, it had the effect of infusing more life and energy into a most essential branch of the functions of the Local Government Board.

The great reform which Mr. Hart had set himself to accomplish was the introduction of greater humanity into the treatment of the sick, the aged, and the infants. So long as these helpless creatures were at the mercy of the ignorant pauper-helpers, so long would their life be liable to be one long drawn-out period of misery. Mr. Hart took up the position that it was the duty of the guardians to provide all the care and skilled attention which would surround them in a voluntary hospital, had they had the good fortune to be on the other side of the invisible line that divides the poor from the pauper, and he consistently worked towards that end.

In 1896 his attention was directed to the workhouses in Ireland; he pursued the same method, with the result that he placed before the readers of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* a series of pictures representing such conditions of misery and neglect existing under the Poor Law, that public opinion was at once aroused to demand a reform.

It is not often given to a reformer to see the immediate fruits of his labours, but Mr. Hart had the gratification of being able to chronicle individual instances of improvement in the administration of workhouses around which he had thrown the lash of his criticism: but, far beyond that, he saw the great reform of the abolition of pauper nursing by an order of the Local Government Board; a fact he frequently alluded to in his last illness as giving him the greatest possible gratification. The time was ripe for this; several agencies had been at work, with most of which Mr. Hart was in cordial co-operation, and by these various means public opinion was made fully aware of the evils that surrounded the system of pauper nursing. Still, to Mr. Hart is due the credit of focussing public opinion on individual instances of cruelty, neglect, hardship, and indifference,

and thus giving a substance to the vague charges made against the system.

HIS EXPOSURE OF BABY FARMING AND THE LAWS OBTAINED FOR THE PROTECTION OF INFANT LIFE.

Within two years of his appointment as Editor of this JOURNAL Ernest Hart turned his attention to the evils then existing in regard to baby farming. Nothing (writes the Special Commissioner appointed by him) could more clearly show his indomitable energy and journalistic enterprise than the work which he did in this connection. Having satisfied himself that a gross and wicked traffic in infant life was being carried on he set himself the task of exposing the evil. As the result of his preliminary inquiries he was soon in the possession of much valuable information with respect thereto. He inserted an advertisement in a local newspaper which "enjoys a great and lucrative reputation in this traffic," offering a reward to persons who were willing to adopt a child for a fixed sum. It may be of interest to recall that within a week of the announcement appearing no fewer than 333 letters were received, while several personal applications were made during the same period. The inquiry amply manifested that the greatest facilities existed for the disposal of children; that for £10 per head—the market price of an infant's life under these circumstances—any number would be taken, so that they would give no further trouble, and never be heard of again. But the replies to the advertisement also furnished Mr. Hart with the addresses of most of the women who resorted to baby farming in the metropolis. This information was turned to excellent account, for he secured the services of the late Dr. Alfred Wiltshire, who adopting the rôle of a distressed father burdened with the incubus of an inconvenient illegitimate child, paid visits to the various baby farms with a view to ascertaining all he could of their owners and their practices. These inquiries also included visits to places of "temporary retirement for ladies," of which at that time there were many, in which the procuring of abortion was carried on to a large extent.

Thus it was that Mr. Hart became possessed of a large amount of valuable information bearing upon the subject, and armed with this he lost no time in endeavouring to put public opinion in motion in order to secure some legal restrictions in the practice of baby farming. In 1868 several articles were published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL embodying the main facts of the inquiries. As the result of this, questions were asked in the House of Commons respecting the statements which had appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy, the then Home Secretary, was further asked whether he intended to put the law in motion to suppress the evils to which attention had been drawn. The official reply was that the statements had been read, and that it was quite evident, if they were true, they reflected great disgrace on any nation in respect to which they were made. But here the matter ended as far as the Government was concerned, and here also began the most difficult part of Mr. Hart's enterprise.

Despite the hideous practices which had been exposed, and the unassailable evidence in support of them which had been produced, it was not until four years later that an Act for the Protection of Infant Life was passed. This Act, which came into force on January 1st, 1872, has been superseded, as was pointed out in the JOURNAL of January 1st, 1898, by the new Act of last year.

Mr. Hart never lost his interest in the subject of infant life protection. It was this fact which led him to appoint a Special Commissioner to write some articles upon The Baby Farming System and its Evils, which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL in the early part of 1896. The appearance of these articles was especially opportune, for shortly afterwards the House of Lords Committee appointed to inquire into the subject of baby farming began to hold its sittings, and the articles in question were freely referred to by the Committee.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT AND COFFEE TAVERNS.

Mr. Ernest Hart took a warm interest in the various departments of that striking feature of the Victorian Age which is best known as the "Temperance Movement," using the word "temperance" in its broadest sense. In the institution

of those most practical and useful establishments—coffee taverns—he bore a conspicuous part. Well do I remember (writes Dr. Norman Kerr) attending, with a few other ladies and gentlemen, at Mr. and Mrs. Hart's hospitable residence, repeated gatherings, in which they both displayed deep interest in the establishment of this now popular and successful enterprise. Indeed the name of "coffee tavern," which rapidly caught on, was, as by an inspiration, suggested and adopted at one of these conferences. For many years Mr. Hart acted as a director of the London Coffee Tavern Company, and Chairman of the Victoria Temperance Music Hall Company, never weary in publicly advocating the claims of this new departure in practical temperance, on public health as well as on social and philanthropic grounds.

Nor should his valuable services, alike in his capacity as Editor of the JOURNAL and as efficient worker for the modern movement of the British Medical Association, for the true interests of habitual drunkards, be forgotten. From its foundation he was an active Vice-President of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, and one of his papers to that Society on Ether Drinking attracted the attention of the civilised world. Mr. Hart's persistent and ungrudging sympathy with, and advocacy of, all genuine efforts at sobriety are fresh in the grateful recollection of all real friends of true temperance. The writer, in the course of a protracted friendship, never appealed to Mr. Hart in vain for repeated succour and encouragement to professional colleagues bravely battling with the direful disease of inebriety, and to perform unselfish good deeds unknown to the world at large.

NATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY.

Mr. Ernest Hart joined the Committee of the National Health Society in 1876, and in 1877 became Chairman of the Executive Committee. He continued to take a deep interest in the promotion of the Society to the day of his death, and was always anxious to hear of its usefulness and well-being. He retired from the chairmanship two years ago on account of failing health, which prevented his regular attendance at the meetings of the Society. During the time he was in active work on the Committee of the Society some of its most useful public work was accomplished—namely, its strong advocacy of vaccination, the organisation of lectures on all subjects relating to public health, the training of teachers for county council work, and free lectures amongst the poor on all subjects relating to personal and domestic hygiene. Mr. Hart was, whilst travelling in India, the means of starting a branch National Health Society in that country.

HIS INVESTIGATIONS ON WATERBORNE DISEASE.

In the sphere of Preventive Medicine Mr. Hart never lost an opportunity of emphasising the great principles of purity of water, of air, of soil, and of food. From the time when, in 1865, he took part in the investigation of a mysterious outbreak of cholera at Theydon Bois, in Essex; and when, in 1866 the disastrous cholera epidemic of that year in East London was traced to the distribution of unfiltered and specifically polluted water from the Lee during several days by the East London Water Company, he watched the course of each epidemic of Asiatic cholera. From year to year his conviction strengthened that the drinking or the "eating" of specifically infected water was the cause of practically every one of the epidemics. These views he strongly brought out in his address on "Waterborne Cholera," delivered before the annual meeting of the American Medical Association at Milwaukee in June, 1893, and reiterated in his address on "The Nurseries of Cholera: Its Diffusion and its Extinction," which he delivered before the Section of Public Medicine of the British Medical Association at Newcastle in August, 1893. In the second of these addresses he laid bare, in his peculiarly graphic and forcible style, the dangers of the great Indian fairs and of the Meccan pilgrimages.

ON MILKBORNE DISEASE.

Milkborne disease also engaged Mr. Hart's attention. At the International Medical Congress of 1881 he read a paper on "The Influence of Milk in Spreading Zymotic Disease," giving the history of seventy-three outbreaks of typhoid fever, scarlatina, diphtheria, and allied throat illness which had been traced to the agency of milk. He dealt with the same subject before the Social Science Association at Huddersfield in 1883,

and in a further report in 1897 he has set out the history of ninety-five additional outbreaks of disease traceable to the same agency.

HIS SERVICES TO ARMY MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Mr. Hart's able advocacy and persistent efforts for justice and the redress of grievances towards medical officers of the public services will long be remembered with gratitude. So closely was he identified with their fight for just rights, that many who had never spoken to, or even seen him, regarded him as a personal friend. He was indeed their friend, striving generously and disinterestedly for those of his own profession whom he felt had to wage a very unequal warfare against a powerful and unreasoning oligarchy, strong in pride, prejudice, and prerogative.

The abolition of relative rank, which left the medical officers derelict in the army, roused him to espouse their cause. He knew that according to the rules of the service they could not combine either in defence, or in expressing with collective voice their needs and desires. Therefore, in 1888, determined to get at the heart of the matter, he, as chairman of the Parliamentary Bill Committee, hit upon the expedient of a *plébiscite*, through the British Medical Association, by which each medical officer's opinions would be got at without a charge of collective combination. It succeeded, and the vote was almost unanimous for simple army equality. Fortified by this knowledge he set about that powerful advocacy of their claims, which has not ceased for ten years. During that time commissions, committees, and deputations, have resulted in warrants, army orders, and revised regulations all conceding something, even if in a halting and imperfect way, to the claims of the medical officers. Step by step, chiefly through Mr. Hart's persistent efforts, the War Office, or perhaps rather the military hierarchy thereof, have been driven from untenable positions that could no longer be defended; and although the citadel has not yet been won, victory is in sight, but he has not been spared to share in it.

In this, as in all other controversies and matters involving special and technical knowledge, Mr. Hart, as was his wont, always availed himself of expert advice. Indeed, his faculty of picking other men's brains, added to his own immense ability, have been the main means of making the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* the power in the State it now is. But although his self-confidence was great, and he sometimes asserted himself dogmatically, if not imperiously, he always presented an open mind and "sweet reasonableness," that took the edge off differences. And when he saw he had to relinquish a position, his retreat was conducted with an adroitness which showed him to be a splendid tactician, knowing, with the wisest, when to do and when to forbear. The quickness with which he grasped new or unfamiliar facts was extraordinary, and only equalled by a mental flexibility and literary nimbleness which enabled him, almost without apparent effort, to immediately set forth new thoughts in that elegant diction which characterised his writings.

No man's death will be more regretted by medical officers of the public services than his; and the only thought which will console them is that their cause is so good, that even he will not be found essential to its maintenance; and army medical reform will work itself out fully even although the brain of the former master no longer directs.

HIS SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

For the past thirty years Mr. Hart had given his hearty support to the movement for introducing women into the medical profession. At an earlier date, when on the staff of the *Lancet*, his comments on my initial struggles (writes Mrs. Garrett Anderson) had not been friendly, and I well remember being introduced to him as an opponent at the house of a mutual friend, and talking the subject over with him. How he came later on to a better mind I know not. Possibly Mrs. Hart, who studied medicine in Paris, helped him to a wider and more sympathetic view of women's lives than he had had as a younger man. Certainly, from the time of the foundation of the London School of Medicine for Women in 1874 Mr. Hart did all he could, consistently with his position as Editor of the *JOURNAL*, to befriend the movement. For several years he and Mrs. Hart gave a handsome scholarship

to the school; he was one of its governors, and in that capacity he was always ready with shrewd and kindly advice and with encouragement. On the other hand, he felt that as Editor of the *JOURNAL* he could not properly go against the expressed wish of the majority of the members of the Association, and at the time when, by the fallacious method of post-cards, a vote was recorded against the further admission of women into the Association, he thought it necessary to try to persuade me to resign the position as member which I had then had for some years. I understood his attitude, and, though the advice was not taken, our friendly relations were maintained. Mr. Hart was endowed with the gifts of a diplomatist, and he probably respected my refusal to surrender a point of vantage as much as I did his self-suppression in urging the surrender. Later on, when the Association had frankly opened its doors to women, he was able to follow his own inclination with less reserve, and whenever he could give a word of friendliness and appreciation to the School or to the New Hospital and its staff, or, indeed, to medical women anywhere, that word was forthcoming. He had a very real love of freedom and a desire to see people reach their intellectual best, whether men or women. He had also the rarer power of seeing the ethical and economic value to women of freedom. He was able to understand, as few can, how much misery comes to women through the poverty that is based upon dependence, and upon the absence of adequate training for work, by which they can maintain themselves in the social position to which they belong. Professional women in all departments have lost a good friend by his death.

HIS ADVOCACY OF VACCINATION.

Mr. Hart's advocacy of vaccination as a prophylactic against small-pox is well-known. His pamphlet, entitled, *The Truth about Vaccination*, published in 1880, set out in a concise form the facts and arguments in support of vaccination, and answered all the serious objections advanced against the practice. It did much towards spreading accurate information on the subject amongst the general public, and its value was shown in the virulent and personal attacks of which he was the constant recipient at the hands of the anti-vaccinators. He was strongly in favour of vaccination with calf lymph, and as long ago as 1879 he drew up a Preliminary Report on an "Investigation of the Results of Vaccination from the Calf in various Countries," and submitted it to a conference held in London on his suggestion on December 4th, 1879, at which a number of the leading members of the medical profession attended, and met M. Warlomont, of Brussels. The fact that to-day, eighteen years after that Conference was held, we are apparently on the eve of the inauguration of a national system of vaccination with calf lymph, is an eloquent testimony to the soundness and acumen of Mr. Hart's judgment. A new edition of *The Truth about Vaccination* was called for and issued in 1895.

HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE ABATEMENT OF SMOKE.

Smoke abatement was another of the many movements with which Mr. Hart's name has long been associated, and by means of the Smoke Abatement Exhibition of 1882—which was mainly due to his initiation—he did much to solve the difficult problems involved in that troublesome question. It is no fault of his that the practical remedies which he then indicated and himself adopted against the evils have to a large extent been ignored by the public whom he sought to benefit.

AND THE REGISTRATION OF PLUMBERS.

His mind was essentially practical. Nothing had value for him in practical matters until it was expressed in terms intelligible to everyone. A minor consequence of this dominant characteristic, but one which was essential to his personal charm, was the fact that, with all the public objects which he set himself to achieve, and the often hot conflicts which arose in the course of his efforts, he never had or nourished a grievance. His endeavours to bring about that most desirable of reforms—the better training and registration of plumbers—were characteristic of this attitude, and his plan of opening the campaign was proposed in the same direct and incisive manner as characterised all his public work. It was at a dinner of the Plumbers' Company when

Ernest Hart, having listened to the long list of post-prandial orations which custom has imposed as necessary, rose to contribute his quota to the talk. In those days the great City companies had only just begun to recognise the trust of their position. From what a different aspect he viewed the *raison d'être* of his host and their hospitality? To him the Plumbers' Company existed for the plumber, and in a short and pithy speech he told the Company that singularly apparent fact. From that time till he died he never ceased advocating the reforms which he thought necessary. In this work he was ably joined by Mr. W. K. E. Coles, the Secretary of the Company, and together they, in the pages of this JOURNAL and in other ways too numerous to mention, never ceased to enforce the results of their combined deliberation.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE MEDICAL SICKNESS, ANNUITY, AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.*

Any mention of Mr. Hart's life-work would be incomplete if it did not include an account of the Medical, Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Society. Attempts had been made to start a provident society for the medical profession previous to 1883, but they had all proved failures. In the beginning of that year Messrs. Bain Sincock and Ravenhill addressed letters to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL strongly advocating the formation of a medical sick and benefit society. These letters provoked a lengthy correspondence, but, as on previous occasions, in all probability nothing would have resulted from the discussion, had not Mr. Hart taken up the question in his usual energetic manner. In order to lay before the profession a workable scheme he obtained the advice of a professional actuary at his own cost, and defrayed the preliminary expenses incurred before the Executive Committee was constituted. Not the least of the benefits Mr. Hart conferred on the Society was the appointment of Mr. C. J. Radley, the first secretary.

Mr. Hart recognised that, in launching a new society with little or no experience to guide the Committee, it was all important that the Secretary should be a man of great ability and judgment, and here Mr. Hart's consummate knowledge of character enabled him to select a man exactly fitted for the post. It is not too much to say that the shrewdness and the intimate knowledge possessed by Mr. Radley of the workings of friendly societies were invaluable at the starting of the new Society. Equally successful was the appointment of the present Secretary, who was also selected by Mr. Hart. From the foundation of the Society in 1883 until 1894 Mr. Hart was the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and, except when he was travelling abroad, he hardly missed a monthly meeting, and, in order to save expense, these meetings were held at his private residence. On resigning the office of Chairman, the post of President was created, in order to retain Mr. Hart's name at the head of the Society, and the Executive Committee voted a sum of 200 guineas from the management fund for the purchase of a work of art to be presented to him as a small recognition of his services to the Society. This action of the committee was cordially endorsed at the annual meeting of the Society in 1894, and a resolution thanking Mr. Hart for "the energy, ability, and public spirit with which he initiated the foundation of this Society, and for the continuous skill and care with which he has so successfully conducted its affairs," was carried with acclamation. If the medical profession had no other cause for gratitude to Mr. Hart, a retrospect of the valuable work done by the Society during the fifteen years that have elapsed since its foundation should be sufficient to ensure the most grateful thanks, not only of the members of the Society, but also of the remainder of the profession, who have thus been spared many distressing appeals for assistance. It may be asserted that the Society would hardly have existed, and certainly not in its present flourishing condition, had not Mr. Hart taken it up. His financial genius, great administrative skill, and ability in selecting suitable men for carrying on the routine work of the Society, have resulted in a great success, and the foundations have been so firmly laid that, even though the hand which guided the Society so skilfully through its early difficulties

has been removed, there is every reason to believe in the prospect of an increasing success in the future.

HIS EFFORTS TO REDRESS THE GRIEVANCES OF THE IRISH DISPENSARY DOCTORS.

For many years Ernest Hart gave much attention to the case of the Irish dispensary doctors, and they must bear in their memory the work which he did in their interest. In 1892 he brought the subject before the Parliamentary Bills Committee, and on his recommendation it was determined to make a special effort to win relief for their grievances. In consultation with Mr. (now Sir William) Thomson, of Dublin, a number of questions were addressed to each dispensary medical officer under the Poor Law, and in this way a Commission was set to work. The replies were copious, and a great deal of the space of the JOURNAL was given up to their publication during a couple of months. Later on he went over to Dublin to attend a conference, and he also then appeared before the Local Government Board as one of a large deputation, to press the claims of the doctors for redress of their wrongs. The whole of the evidence with the comments upon it was printed in a pamphlet and sent to all Members of Parliament and to the officers immediately concerned. The Irish newspapers reproduced much of what was written, and the result was an informing of the public to an extent which had never before been attained. It is true that thus far no substantial change has been effected, but Mr. Hart's action has laid the ground for future success.

To the Irish dispensary doctor his death is a special loss, because it will be difficult to find another advocate so sympathetic, so wise, or so gifted with the quiet, persistent energy which he brought to every work he undertook.

HIS COLLECTION OF JAPANESE ART OBJECTS.

Mr. Hart was not a man of many recreations, for his pleasure lay chiefly in his public work—but he indulged generously in one hobby for the last fifteen years of his life—the study and collection of Japanese works of art. Beginning as early as 1882, he rapidly amassed a remarkable series of objects appertaining to almost every branch of the art and art industry of the farthest East—paintings, engravings, ceramics, lacquer, metal work, carvings in wood and ivory, stencil plates—well selected specimens of each and all—came into his hands. In the earlier years he bought for the most part under expert advice, but in the later times he became himself an expert, and required little outside assistance. In 1886 he exhibited a remarkable collection at the rooms of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Sciences, and Commerce, and gave a series of lectures dealing with each group of works, entering into questions of history, technique, and criticism with a facility that few could have attained in a lifetime spent in their study.

Some years after, drawn to the Mecca of his art cult, the Land of the Rising Sun, he added largely both to his knowledge and possessions, and on his return to England gave in 1891 and 1895 a second and a third series of lectures setting forth his ripened experience. His interest in the subject never slackened even down to the last months of his active life. He was ever classifying, rearranging, completing, and occasionally thinning his collection. His was a well-known figure at every gathering of Japanophiles, whether at the *soirées* of the Japan Society, or at exhibitions and sales of things Japanese; and all friends or strangers who were genuinely interested were sure of a welcome to view his treasures and to profit by his learning. He has left abundant evidence of his knowledge in his published lectures, in various contributions to journals, and in his volume on stencil printing, issued in 1895.

HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST BARRACK SCHOOLS.

"In Mr. Hart the children have indeed lost a powerful and devoted friend. It must be nearly thirty years ago since we used to look to him for help in advocating boarding out," writes a correspondent. But, although Mr. Hart's interest in pauper children extended over so long a period, it was not until the early eighties that he began to turn his attention to the barrack schools, being called to observe the products of

* By Dr. de Havilland Hall, Chairman of the Executive Committee of this Society.

the system in some of the girls reared in one of the schools whom his sister-in-law, Mrs. S. A. Barnett, endeavoured to train in a small cottage where Mr. Hart was a frequent guest. The results being unsatisfactory, his keen mind probed to find the flaw in the education, and with the many channels for information to which he had access, he had soon gathered a mass of information. His interest increased with his knowledge, while his clear judgment discriminated between the remediable mistakes in administration and the radical errors of a system, which "only destruction could remove." That reform was needed he was convinced, and that it should go in the direction of individualising the children he also unswervingly held, but he took no public action, except by constantly keeping the matter before the press, until the scandals of the cruelty practised on the children at the Brentwood schools, and the occurrence of a large number of cases of food-poisoning at Forest Gate in the summer of 1894 gave him an opportunity.

A deputation, which the British Medical Association took a large part in organising, was introduced to Mr. Shaw Lefevre (then President of the Local Government Board) by Sir John Gorst in the summer of 1894. Ably supported by others who spoke on various aspects of the matter, Mr. Ernest Hart made a masterly statement, showing the need of a public inquiry, and demanding the appointment of a Departmental Committee. The children's champion—never so persuasive as when pleading for the helpless, never so eloquent as when stirred by injustice—won his demand, and on the appointment of the Committee in October, 1894, Mr. Hart was summoned as the first witness. He brought, as he explained, no "eyewitness experience," but a mass of carefully sifted knowledge, a collection of information from authorised persons, and a vital sympathy with children and their needs. He marshalled his facts, arranged his arguments, and pressed his reforms on the Committee with a lucidity, comprehensiveness, and force which evidently carried great weight, for after hearing 75 witnesses, the now famous Report embodied many of his suggestions, and in the main supported his conclusions.

The series of articles, directly drawn from the evidence, which have appeared in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, are being carried out in accordance with Mr. Hart's axiom, that a subject needing reform has to be kept before the public until the public demands reform. That the public have begun to require wider views and more far-sighted objects in the treatment of these children is already seen in the formation of the State Children's Aid Association, an influential body bent on obtaining for the children that form of education which will eventually raise them above pauperism. On the Council of this Association Mr. Hart took a seat, and although prevented by frequent illnesses from making attendances, his advice and suggestions have been often sought. Moved by a lever of common feeling the Local Government Board, hitherto culpably apathetic to the welfare of its young charges, has taken some important steps, and Mr. Hart lived to see some of the changes made which he so passionately advocated. The ophthalmic condition of the London pauper children is no longer a matter of question. Dr. Sydney Stephenson has exposed facts, and the Government has removed the diseased children from the guardians' charge. The feeble-minded, the under-nourished, the "remanded" children, and those suffering from ringworm, and diseases of malnutrition, are in future to be specially cared for by the Metropolitan Asylums Board. A new ophthalmic hospital is to be built, the cubic space for each child is to be increased, while in all the schools greater consideration is shown to the dietary, exercise, and play appliances of the unfortunate class, for whose welfare Mr. Hart so persistently laboured. The work of demolition has also begun, for the Local Government Board have decided that the largest barrack schools, Sutton, containing 1,500 children, shall be broken up and the children scattered. Mr. Hart's action has been bitterly opposed in some quarters, but he treated these attacks with indifference, strong in the purity of his motives and confident that the public, when it knew the facts, would endorse his views. In the opinion of a country guardian, "His wise action mainly changed the public opinion with regard to workhouse nursing;" and doubtless the memory of this victory won years ago for the sick poor, gave him both courage and patience in his efforts for the children of the poor.

HIS DEMAND FOR SANITARY REFORM IN INDIA.

Mr. Hart's desire to help the medical profession in India, and advance the cause of sanitation in that country, was much appreciated (writes Dr. Simpson, the late M.O.H. of Calcutta) by the profession in India, as shown by the unanimity with which, after the delivery of his address at the Indian Medical Congress pointing out the need of scientific and sanitary places of research, a resolution was framed, stating that

The Congress in general meeting assembled heartily concurs in the views which have been expressed as to the primary importance to the health and welfare of the army and of the people of India, of the liberal encouragement and support by the Government of India, by the municipal authorities, and by individuals of scientific and sanitary places of research and clinical study, for the better knowledge, prevention, and treatment of the prevalent diseases of India (such as cholera, malarious fevers, diphtheria, etc.), and the endowment of qualified persons for these purposes.

Before Mr. Hart started for India to attend the Medical Congress at Calcutta he had prepared a laborious and lengthy speech on the sanitary needs of India, which had been put into type before he left England. Finding it was much too long to give as a spoken address, he on arrival at Calcutta engaged the services of a shorthand writer, dictated to him a summary of this address, which was accordingly furnished to the press as his intended speech. When, however, Mr. Hart stood up to address his audience, all notes were discarded, and brimful of his mission he delivered one of the most brilliant philippics ever heard on such a subject, sparkling with satire, trenchant with indisputable facts, and dealing straight blows at those in authority for supineness and neglect. He held his audience spell-bound, only short bursts of laughter, which greeted his sallies of satirical humour, breaking the silence with which he was listened to and his close arguments followed. Deriding the printed recommendations for the prevention and staying of cholera among troops, he held up in his hand the Blue Book, in which the medical officers were recommended to march the troops out of the barracks at right angles to the wind, and exclaimed, "You might as well tell them to waltz."

This speech and his subsequent open letter to the Viceroy had a profound influence in inaugurating sanitary reform, although the hard hits of his attack aroused a good deal of sore feeling and useless recrimination at the time. In fact, Mr. Hart's ardour sometimes carried him into regions in which it appeared to some that he did not sufficiently appreciate the labours of the many eminent medical men who had spent their lives in India, and that he criticised somewhat severely the attainments of his medical brethren. It was this misunderstanding which estranged some of the members of the Indian Medical Service; but it could at the most have been only a temporary disagreement, for those who knew Mr. Hart best were aware that there was no one more loyal to the profession, and that he was attacking a system and not individuals. The defects of the system of medical and sanitary administration in India lay not with the able medical officers in the public service, but with the Indian authorities, who were satisfied with its present undermanned condition.

The strong support given by Mr. Hart to the resolutions passed by the Indian Medical Congress was invaluable. His experience in these matters proved to be of great assistance, and it is to him mainly that the medical officers in India owe the speedy abandonment by the Secretary of State for India of the objectionable third clause of the Cantonment Bill, which was an insult to the whole body of medical men in the service of the Government. Mr. Hart's assistance in their hour of need is not likely to be forgotten.

HIS EXPOSURE OF THE PILGRIM PATH OF CHOLERA.

One of the most important results of Mr. Hart's visit to India in 1894-95 was the improvement afterwards effected in the Mecca pilgrimage. His mission aroused more than a passing interest in the subject among some of the more influential officials; and it awakened among the Mohammedan leaders a desire to save their community from the dangers which the pilgrims to Mecca incurred owing to the insanitary condition of Kamaran, Jeddah, and the Holy City. Mr. Hart carried the Mohammedans along with him in his views, and his representations on the subject came therefore with

peculiar force and effect, and it is in no small measure due to his efforts that so much has been recently done to improve the conditions under which the pilgrimage is made. Sir Charles Elliott, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal at the time of Mr. Hart's visit, was the first to appreciate and give a hearty welcome to his mission; and when proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Harvey for his presidential address to the Indian Medical Congress, he spoke in the following terms on the pilgrim question:

Another subject which has been a good deal in the mind of the Government is that regarding cholera among Mecca pilgrims. Our distinguished visitor, Mr. Hart, delivered a lecture on the subject on Saturday, and showed the value of what Dr. Harvey said about the importance of carrying the mind of the public with us. Any attempt that we may make to put down the evils which attend the pilgrimage to Mecca, in the course of which so many of our fellow subjects in this country suffer seriously and perish on the way, is to be welcomed. They start from this place in a state of disease and in a state of poverty, by reason of which they are unable to carry out the journey properly and safely. To relieve this there are excellent philanthropic people, who would desire to do much, but it is absolutely impossible to do anything unless we can carry the people with us, and unless we can carry the feelings and wishes of the people along us. No doubt that Mohammedans are the persons from whom the pilgrims are drawn, and I thank Mr. Hart for my own part and on behalf of the Government for the trouble he has taken in drawing together the members of the Mohammedan community, whose leading representatives met him a few days ago, to share his views and to see with his eyes.

Keeping his mind always open to find the cause of great epidemics and to discover their prevention, Ernest Hart perceived clearly that many of the great epidemics of cholera sprang from the massing of unwashed pilgrims at Mecca, spreading thence to Europe along the homeward path of these pilgrims. In order to bring the subject home to the public mind he published an illustrated series of papers in the *Daily Graphic*, entitled *The Pilgrim Path of Cholera*. Attention was aroused by these articles in influential quarters, and the attention of the Queen was drawn to the great risks her Indian subjects ran in the pilgrimage to Mecca. It was proposed that Mr. Hart should go, in the summer of 1894, to Constantinople, charged with the high mission of laying the whole subject before the Sultan, and trying to get him to move as the head of the Mohammedan Church, and enforce such sanitary measures as would prevent the dissemination of cholera at Mecca. Mr. Hart was on the point of starting, and had even taken his railway ticket, and was boldly going alone on this mission in a wretched state of health, when at the last moment, yielding to the entreaties of his wife, he gave it up, it being arranged that they should go to India later on, for him to raise there the whole question of the sanitation of Mecca among the Indian Mohammedans, and to induce them to petition the Sultan for the reforms necessary. The result of which was that Mr. Hart received an influential invitation from Hyderabad asking him to hold a meeting there on the subject. He sailed for India with Mrs. Hart in December, 1894. He first addressed a meeting of the leading Mohammedans under the presidency of the Prince of Oude in Calcutta, and then proceeded to Hyderabad in the Deccan.

HIS RECEPTION AND THE GREAT MEETING OF MOHAMMEDANS AT HYDERABAD.

He was received at the station with a public torchlight procession, and was presented with an address and a silver casket from the native and English doctors. During the fortnight that he was in Hyderabad, making his plans and forming public opinion, he was entertained by the leading native noblemen, the Prime Minister, and the Shah Kadri, the head of the Mohammedan Church in Hyderabad. On the afternoon of the great public meeting summoned to consider the sanitation of Mecca a public half-holiday was given, and it was calculated that no fewer than 5,000 Mohammedans assembled in the public gardens, under the most unusual circumstance of hearing an European and "Infidel" address Mohammedans on the sanitation of their holy places. The meeting was honoured by the presence on the platform of the Prime Minister, the Resident, and the Shah Kadri. The speeches were given in Urdu, Mr. Hart's speech being translated sentence by sentence by Ali Mahomet Belgrami. A full account appeared in the *JOURNAL* at the time.

Hyderabad is, as is well known, the hotbed of fanatic Mohammedanism. The wildest rumours were set about in the bazaars as to Mr. Hart's supposed intention of obtaining the closure of the Zem Zem well; and there is no doubt that he ran considerable personal risks in thus addressing such a vast meeting of fanatical Mohammedans. But quite undaunted Mr. Hart proceeded steadily on his self-imposed mission, and having obtained at the meeting a vote in favour of his proposals of sanitation, he trusted that the first step had been made in the reform he so ardently desired to see carried out.

Though suffering from severe intestinal trouble and chill, he started from Hyderabad to fulfil an engagement to address a Mohammedan meeting at Aligahr; but on reaching Agra he was struck down by dysentery. He was conveyed to a dak bungalow overlooking the Jumna, lent by the Collector, and here he lay almost at the point of death for a fortnight. Desperately ill as he was, he could with difficulty be persuaded to give up his engagements to address the meetings of Mohammedans which had been arranged in the North-West Provinces. As soon as he could be moved he was carried down to Bombay, and came home without delay by the long sea journey. Nursed all the way home by his wife he slowly recovered strength, but had not been home a month when he was laid up by an attack of influenza and pneumonia. His health never really recovered from these two attacks of severe illness.

HIS ENERGY IN SPITE OF INCREASING ILL-HEALTH.

Till the year 1883 Ernest Hart enjoyed vigorous health, and had the untiring energy of a keen, wiry, nervous organisation. He drew enjoyment from many sources—from his active participation in public affairs, as well as from his happy appreciation of natural beauty. Directly publishing day was passed, and the *JOURNAL*, which was the pride of his life, was out, he and his wife quitted London, according to an invariable custom, and spent the week-end quietly together in the country, passing the time either riding on horseback or on the river. In the late autumn of 1883, when apparently in good health, rapid and progressive emaciation and nervous restlessness led to an examination, and the painful discovery that he was the victim of that most intractable disease, diabetes. Symptoms soon became more marked, and his condition at his then age, 48, was rather serious. He did not, however, abate one iota of his work; indeed, the reverse, as he took on himself the arduous labours involved in being an active member of the executive of the Health Exhibition, which was, in fact, largely due to his initiative. With the double object of interviewing the King of Italy on a mission from this Committee, and for the benefit of his health, he went to Italy in the early spring of 1884. Though he knew he was struck by a disease which never forgives, he returned home determined to defy it to his utmost, and to bear himself bravely. "I will go on to the end; I should hate to be pitied," he would say. But from the time that it was discovered that he had diabetes till his death, fourteen years later, he always suffered more or less from the dyspeptic and nervous troubles with which that disease torments its victims. A careful and special study of diabetic dietaries was made by his wife, and his diet was carefully arranged in view of these. In 1885 he went to Carlsbad, after the Brighton meeting, and derived so much benefit from the treatment that for four successive summers he made a practice of going thither for two or three weeks directly the annual Association meeting was over. It was found that ocean journeys did more to restore him when fatigued, and to banish dyspepsia and depression, than anything else. He consequently arranged to take his holiday in the early spring, when he and his wife used to get away from the ubiquitous post on long and heartily-enjoyed cruises to Egypt, to Corfu, to Madeira, to the Canary Islands, to the West Indies, and on two occasions, when long leaves of absence were granted, to Japan and to India and Burma. But even on these pleasurable journeys, taken for health's sake, he never forgot the main objects of his life, namely, the improvement of public health and the furtherance of the *JOURNAL* and Association. Thus in Cairo, in 1885, his voluntary investigations into, and forcible representations as to, the insanitary condition of the city since

the English occupation, led to his being requested by those in authority to frame a scheme of reform; in Teneriffe in 1887 the information laboriously gathered (even when he himself was suffering from an acute attack of illness) as to the climatic conditions of the island, and put forward in a series of striking letters in the *JOURNAL*, induced the public and profession to accept that island as another health resort for invalids; in Canada, in 1891, on his way home from Japan, he initiated in each city he passed through the foundation of a Branch of the British Medical Association; and in India, in 1895, though then in extreme ill-health, he made the whole country ring with his demands for sanitary reform. Even in his last journey to the West Indies, when he was so ill that he could walk and move only with great difficulty, he made efforts to attend the complimentary dinners and lunches given him by Branches of the British Medical Association, and formulated a scheme of inter-insular organisation of the West Indian Branches, which he thought would make the British Medical Association of larger public usefulness in the islands.

It was a source of genuine gratification to him to find in these far-away dependencies how highly the *JOURNAL* was appreciated, and what a strong link it proved to be between isolated members and the great body of the profession in the mother country.

In 1890 he had a severe attack of pneumonia, from which he made a good recovery. As the years went by his health and strength steadily and slowly declined, but not his energy and his intense intellectual activity. He never missed seeing his secretaries and shorthand writers in the morning, though the great budget of *JOURNAL* letters was not infrequently dealt with as he reclined on his bed, and under conditions of suffering which only a strong purpose and an abiding sense of public duty made him disregard. His London house at Wimpole Street was arranged and used for the convenience of his editorial work, and here his numerous visitors, who sought interviews with him on professional subjects, would find him in his study, surrounded by the interesting objects of his collection of Japanese works of art, and keeping two or three shorthand clerks and typists hard at work. In this house he delighted to entertain his numerous friends, and his charm as a host will not be soon forgotten. From time to time societies of working people or very poor friends from Whitechapel were entertained in the big drawing-rooms, on which occasions he would hold the interest of his guests for hours describing the workmanship, and telling stories, of his Japanese treasures.

The whole of his Japanese collection, the reputation of which was world-wide, was made by him personally since 1884. In 1886 he gave a series of lectures on the arts and artists of Japan at the Society of Arts, which showed so profound a knowledge of his subject that the honour was done him of their being translated into Japanese. When some years later he visited Japan, he found himself the recipient of unusual honours offered by the Japanese Government as a testimony of their appreciation of his efforts and learning. Temple treasures, exhibited only to royal persons, were uncovered to him, and at Nikko he was requested, as a great mark of respect, to enter the temple by the central door, all others entering by the side door.

Despite the internal misery and the nervous depression frequently caused by the diabetes, he went bravely on, dealing with public questions with an amazing *verve* and grasp. His voice was heard in no uncertain tones in America on the burning question of medical etiquette; in Paris on the exposure of the delusions of mesmerists; in India on the scientific investigation of the prevention of disease; and at home in the demand for trained nurses for the sick poor, for natural homes for pauper children, for pure air untainted by smoke, and for clean water undefiled by disease germs.

He never missed attending the annual meetings of the British Medical Association—with the exception of the last one at Montreal—though the fatigue of them often tried him. All will remember his bearing on these occasions, his ceaseless activity, his never-failing courtesy to strangers, his easy imparting of information, his grasp of endless details, his quick apprehension of the main point at issue in an involved discussion, and the rapidity with which he directed secretaries and

various operations and organisations at once. All will recall the small slight figure, the quick nervous movements of the body, the noble head and brow, the pale clear-cut face the large grey eyes which seemed to blaze out the thoughts before they were spoken by the mobile lips and bell-like voice. And all those who remembered him in his vigorous days, and spoke of him with pride as "our Editor," saw with sorrow at the Carlisle meeting how the fell disease, against which he had made so brave a fight, was getting him under. He rose from his chair and walked with difficulty from an increasing ataxy, his emaciation was marked, and his physical weakness very patent. Though even here the old fire of eloquent speaking burst out under stimulus on the platform.

For several years he had been accustomed to live much at his little country place at Totteridge, ten miles from London, and on his return from Carlisle he arranged to sell his London house, dispose of a part of his noted Japanese collection, and to live altogether and do his editorial work at Totteridge. The change was made to his satisfaction, but health did not improve. He was troubled with recurrent attacks of herpes, and serious and almost constant dyspepsia. On the advice of Dr. Pavy, Mrs. Hart took him last January on a cruise in the *Lusitania* to the West Indies. Life on an ocean steamer again revived him, and he frequently expressed his sense of enjoyment of the sunshine and the views of sea and sky.

On his return home last March he was able to walk better, with the assistance of a friend's arm. Feeling nervously stronger, and not one whit weakened in intellectual vigour, he was most anxious to continue his work and to edit the *JOURNAL* to the end, which he knew could not be far off. All through last summer he carried on his editorial work lying on a long chair on the lawn of his garden. Every day his secretary came from the office with the *JOURNAL* letters, and every Thursday Mr. Hart drove up to London to attend the meeting of the Reference Committee. In evidence of his marked interest in public welfare, it may be noted that it was from his chair in the garden at Fairlawn that he tried to raise the funds to purchase the late Sir Spencer Wells's property as a public park for Hampstead.

HIS LAST ILLNESS AND THE OPERATION OF AMPUTATION.

In June a crop of herpetic spots on the right leg and foot ulcerated. Slowly ulceration took on a necrotic character. Under careful and patient treatment all the ulcers healed, excepting one above the first metatarsal bone, which slowly spread till a patch of dry gangrene was produced. Suffering acutely at times but still undaunted Mr. Hart pursued the usual course of his life. Indeed, in July he and his wife gave three large garden parties to London friends, though at the time he could not stand, and had to be carried everywhere. Those who were at these receptions will remember his vivacious conversation, his keen interest in all that was going on, and his pleasure at presenting his guests with bouquets of roses.

Slowly the gangrene gained ground, and the pain became so severe that on Thursday, September 2nd, Mr. Hart was obliged for the first time most reluctantly, and only after earnest persuasion, to give up driving to town to attend the meeting of the Reference Committee.

His condition became rapidly serious, and on Saturday, September 4th, Mr. Lockwood was called in, and gave his decision that amputation of the leg was necessary to save life. Mr. Hart took this fell news with the utmost composure. "When can it be done—to-morrow?" was his question.

He was conveyed in an ambulance to London on the 6th; and after a consultation with Mr. Bryant, Dr. Mitchell Bruce, and Mr. Lockwood, amputation of the leg at the upper third was decided upon.

Apprehension did not disturb Mr. Hart's sleep that night; and the next morning he preserved his perfect composure, the last thing he did before being carried to the operating room was to dictate to his wife some notes for a leader in the *JOURNAL*.

The operation was successful. Recovery was not, however, quite uninterrupted, for the formation and breaking down of a hæmatoma and a subsequent slough led to the wound being open over a small area, and was not quite closed at the time

of his death. Sugar almost disappeared after the operation, and diabetic symptoms abated, a very strict diet being maintained.

Early in October Mr. Hart was removed to Brighton. Up to Christmas he continued to make slow but steady progress; he gained strength and weight, though he suffered almost constantly from neuritic pain in the stump referred to the lost foot. Twice a day he might have been seen driving with his wife along the sea front, and at tea time he liked nothing better than that friends should come in and chat with him. On Christmas Day he was well enough to join a small party of intimate friends and relatives at dinner, and to see a number of friends on the following day.

After Christmas a gradually-increasing weakness was noted; he lost weight; the old dyspeptic troubles returned, with occasional accesses of pain in the chest and epigastrium. Mr. Willoughby Furner, his medical attendant, was unremitting in his care. The indisposition was thought to be temporary, and no immediate danger was apprehended. On Tuesday he was out driving twice in the day. On Wednesday he saw friends in the afternoon, and was much interested in some unpublished literary work which was read aloud. He expressed again his wish to do something for the sick poor in their homes, so that they might enjoy the comforts of skilled nursing as he had done, and he saw a medical man as to the needs of a one-legged poor man whom he wished to help. The next day there was a change for the worse. He had a rapid, intermittent pulse, and was restless and depressed. He gave up hoping on that day, for the first time, to get better.

HIS DEATH.

He faced death with the same calm courage with which he faced the operation of amputation. Through all his last illness he was supported by the one hope that he would recover sufficiently to resume his editorial work and conduct again the JOURNAL, which had reached such a vigorous growth under his direction; yet even this abiding hope seemed to fail him the last day of his life. Towards evening he grew better, the pulse became steady though rapid, and he sat up to read the evening papers with the old keen interest in the public affairs of the world, discussing them with his wife. The early part of the night he slept well in snatches. At 3.30 A.M. he awoke from an hour's sleep almost pulseless, and in a cold, deathly sweat. His doctor was summoned, and everything possible was done to stimulate the flagging heart. He knew he was dying, and was perfectly calm and clear-headed, solicitous for those about him, and most grateful for their attentions and efforts to give him relief. He asked questions as to the significance of his symptoms, and realised his position, though he thought that the end might not be just yet. About 6 o'clock he asked to be turned on the right side, and calling his wife to his side he spoke with her, gave a few sighs, and fell calmly asleep like a weary child in her arms. The indomitable spirit had fled.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE.

Previous to cremation of the remains at Woking, a funeral memorial service was held on Tuesday, January 11th, at Marylebone Parish Church, close to the centre of Mr. Hart's activities for over forty years. The service, which was fully choral, was performed by the Rev. Canon Barnett (his brother-in-law) and the Rev. Brooke Lambert. The pall was borne by Sir Henry Thompson, Sir Ernest Clarke, Mr. George Murray-Smith, Mr. Francis Fowke (General Secretary of the British Medical Association), Dr. Dawson Williams (Assistant Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL), Dr. Mitchell Bruce, Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, Mr. Albert Kisch, M.R.C.S., Mr. Stephen Hyam (his nephew), Mr. Sydney Rowland (his nephew). Among the numerous friends and fellow-workers in the church were: Sir William MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons; Dr. Holman, Vice-President, representing the President of the Council (Dr. Saundby), who was unavoidably detained; Dr. Parsons, Treasurer; and Dr. Cleveland, Mr. George Eastes, and Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Drake-Brockman, I.M.S., members of the Council of the British Medical Association; Dr. de Havilland Hall, representing the Medical Sickness and Accident Assurance Society; Mr.

Basil Holmes, representing the Metropolitan Public Gardens and Playgrounds Association, of which Mr. Hart was Vice-President; Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B.; Sir Felix Semon; Dr. Bateman, Secretary of the Medical Defence Union; Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Ince, I.M.S., Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel F. Howard, A.M.S.; Dr. Frederick Roberts, Dr. Dudfield, M.O.H. Kensington; Dr. Sims Woodhead, Mr. William Adams, Mr. Croft, Dr. Dudley Buxton, Dr. Norman Kerr, Dr. William Murrell, Dr. Symes Thompson, Dr. W. S. Playfair, Dr. Mapother, Mr. C. B. Lockwood, Dr. W. J. Mickle, Dr. Pickett, Mr. Hume Williams, Dr. Simpson (of Calcutta), Mr. C. L. Taylor (Sub-editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL), Mr. W. L. Burr (Assistant-Secretary to the British Medical Association), and many members of the printing and publishing staff, Miss Emma Cons, Lady Russell Reynolds, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Sir William and Miss Roberts, Mr. Bryant, and the members of Mr. Hart's household.

The coffin was covered with flowers sent by near relatives, old friends, and members of the associations with which he was closely identified, and among the wreaths may be mentioned those bearing the inscriptions: "A last token of respect and esteem from the employees of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL"; "A last tribute of respect and esteem from the Executive Committee of the Medical Sickness and Accident Society"; "Token of regard and appreciation of valuable service from the President and Council of the Society for the Study of Inebriety"; "From his sorrowing and devoted servants"; "From Philip and Sophie Miller in memory of Ernest Hart, kindest of friends"; "From Sir Richard Quain in sincere sorrow for an old friend"; "From Sir Henry and Lady Thompson with sincere regard from old and true friends"; "From Mr. C. Louis Taylor in kind remembrance of an association of many years"; and from Sir Ernest and Lady Clarke, Dr. and Mrs. Dawson Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby Furner, Mr. Sydney Rowland, Miss Maud Rowland, and others. When the coffin had been deposited on the bier, Mr. Hart's gardener reverently laid on it a bunch of orchids from the garden he loved. The chief mourners were Mrs. Ernest Hart and her sister, Mrs. Barnett.

CANON BARNETT'S FUNERAL ORATION.

After Spohr's anthem, "Blest are the Departed, for they cease from their Labours," had been sung, Canon Barnett delivered the funeral oration, and said: "We have been moved to meet by respect for Ernest Hart. Each of us is thinking now of some aspect of his character which drew our admiration or affection. One remembers the ardent intellect which burnt up difficulties; another the masterly ordering of facts which made hard things easy to be understood. For some of us he is the keen fighter who fought for his side with sharpest weapons; for others he is the host, who, by charm of manner, added to our happy days. One will think of the strong critical power which dissected and tossed to ridicule worn-out traditions; another will think of the love of beauty which so enriched his home, his garden, and his talk, and made him so anxious to increase the open spaces of London. He is the man of science, but he is also the lover and the loved of animals, the head of one of the greatest literary staffs, and also the favourite of children, who seemed by instinct to recognise his friendship. He is known to the world as a leader, but he is known to many unknown as a sympathiser with misfortune, as a generous helper of the fallen, as a friend who put his best at a friend's service. Each of us—as to-day we cherish his memory—will consider his character from his own point of view. No words of mine will express what each one knows. No human words can match the height and depth of human feeling. But there is one side of Ernest Hart's character which belongs to all alike. He was a man of public spirit. From the beginning of his career he took up causes, and he used his great influence to make his profession a public service. His ambition was to leave the world cleaner, happier, and better than he found it, and in the pursuit of that ambition he never hesitated to face the prejudices of his peers. He made enemies and he made mistakes, but they were made because he conceived that his first duty was not to his class, but to the public. The sick poor are better cared for, children are safer from harm, national health is

more considered, the medical profession is more honoured, because Ernest Hart lived. Men of public spirit are the salvation of our country—there are many in England, but there are still far too few.

"To-day we thank God for the gift of a man through whom we have all had another call to duty; a life, whose distinction is that it is lived in other's service, is the life which salts the earth; it raises our view of humanity, it enlarges our conception of the great God. By such lives we may be helped to believe that we are not meant to live for self; by such lives we may be helped to believe that most pregnant of all doctrine that God who is power is also love. We do not therefore to-day sorrow as those without hope, we rather praise God that by one man's life the world has been helped onwards, that through our friend good has come. And if still our thoughts return from this public view to the private view; if we find ourselves grieving because the wise counsellor will advise no more, and the tender and affectionate friend will claim and give no more devotion, we are glad to know that the pain of his last illness was marked by kindnesses which bound to him the love of strangers, that his prevailing thought was of others' kindness to himself, that his last message to one for whom he cared was 'Be good, there is nothing else worth living for;' that he faced death as he faced life—bravely, and that the strong fighter died peacefully in the arms he loved best.

"Death is a great mystery. It raises questions which call for answer. It makes sorrow which cries for consolation. God is the comforter. In the knowledge of Him there is peace from questions and rest from sorrow. In Him is eternal life. With God we leave our friend. He is just and loving, the Lord of life and death.

We throw on God. He loves the burden—
God's task to make the heavenly period perfect the earthen."

While the organ pealed forth the solemn cadences of the "Dead March," the body was removed from the church. The last tribute had been paid to Ernest Hart.

Life's work well done,
Life's race well run,
Life's crown well won,
Now may he rest.

ERNEST HART: AN APPRECIATION.

[Reprinted from the "Jewish Chronicle," January 14th, 1898.]

THE death of Mr. Ernest Hart has come as a sad surprise to many of those who had but a few days before received cards returning thanks for their good wishes during his recent illness. Those who knew him best had long realised perforce that the seal of death was upon him, but his own mental activity and buoyancy often deluded even them into false hopes. He had long suffered from diabetes, and it will be remembered that a complication of this disease compelled him to undergo amputation of the leg early in September last. From this severe operation he rallied with amazing vitality, and on leaving for Brighton he repeatedly expressed his intention of returning to work at an early date. But physical strength did not return to him; intestinal complications supervened, and at twenty minutes past six on the morning of Friday, January 7th, he passed painlessly away.

Ernest Abraham Hart was born in London in 1835; he was the second son of Septimus Hart, who for many years practised as a dentist in Sloane Street. His early education was received at the City of London School, where, from the first, he gave evidence of conspicuous ability, acquiring exceptional distinction in essay-writing, an art in which he easily distanced all competitors. An incident of his school life, which he always related with particular satisfaction, related to the Chamberlain Scott Theology Prize. In the examination for this his religion restricted his answers, compelling him to reply to two only of the questions, those relating to the Old Testament; this paper was, however, of such great merit that the examiners felt bound to award him the prize. At an early age he was captain of the School and Lambert Jones Scholar, the most distinguished of his defeated rivals being the late Sir J. R. Seeley, Professor of History in the University of Cambridge. It is said that the number of prizes

obtained by young Hart was so great that he had to charter a cab to remove them after each distribution.

In due course he obtained scholarships to take him to Queen's College, Cambridge, but in view of the religious disabilities then in force at the oldest universities, decided not to go up; he obtained special permission to hold his school scholarships for the purpose of carrying on the study of medicine. He accordingly entered as a student at St. George's Hospital, where his career was no less distinguished than it had been at school. At the end of his second year he gained not only all the prizes for second-year students, but those for third-year students as well, and as a result was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy while still unqualified. During his school and hospital career he is said to have gained in all the enormous number of 210 prizes.

In 1856 Ernest Hart took the diploma of Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the only medical qualification he ever possessed. He settled down to a large city practice in conjunction with the late Mr. Coulson, and his talents and personal charm soon met with recognition—indeed, he himself stated his earnings during the first five years to have averaged no less than £2,000. At the same time, or soon after, he took rooms in the West End, at first in Cork Street, and here his first patient was the late Sir Julian Goldsmid. Meanwhile, however, he had been making rapid progress along that path, the pursuit of which was eventually to wean him from the active practice of his profession. While still a student he had usually managed to make a guinea or two a week by contributions to the *Lancet* and other periodicals. Even at this time he already evinced that great love of the country which a life of almost unparalleled social activity never effaced. Every week-end he used to repair to Richmond, where he had rooms in the gatekeeper's lodge overlooking the Park, and here much of his best literary work was done. In 1858 Mr. Hart began to write editorial articles in the *Lancet*, and two years later, when only 24 years of age, he was offered the Assistant Editorship. This, with characteristic independence, he refused, and was thereupon appointed co-Editor. In 1866 the Council of the British Medical Association invited him to become Editor of their JOURNAL. He accepted, and from that time onwards his fortunes were intimately bound up with those of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. When he assumed the reins of office, the membership of the Association was about 2,000, and the circulation of the JOURNAL but little more. Now the weekly distribution of the latter exceeds 21,000 copies, and its influence, both within the profession and outside, is literally incalculable. The growth of the Association has been largely due to the success of its JOURNAL, and the history of the JOURNAL is the history of Ernest Hart.

But it was some time before journalism and public life absorbed all his time and efforts, and during the earlier period of his literary career he was still actively engaged in medical practice. His bent was upwards surgery, and his first appointment was that of Surgeon to the West London Hospital, where one of his junior colleagues was Mr. Christopher Heath, recently President of the Royal College of Surgeons. While attached here Mr. Hart devised a method of treating a special form of aneurysm which attracted much attention, and was, in those pre-antiseptic days, of great value. His tastes now tended towards a speciality—the diseases of the eye—and in 1864 he was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, becoming a few years later Aural Surgeon and Dean of the Medical School. During this period he contributed various practical papers to the *Transactions* of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society and the *Reports* of the Moorfields Ophthalmic Hospital. He achieved considerable success in ophthalmic practice, a success depending more upon accuracy in diagnosis and soundness of judgment than upon any special manipulative skill. He took a house in Wimpole Street, then by no means the medical Valhalla that it is to-day; in fact, Mr. Hart was for a short time the only doctor in the street, the next one to settle in it being his lifelong friend, Mr. (now Sir) Henry Thompson. At a somewhat later date he was accounted an authority of a high order on all questions relating to dietetics. Still, as the years went on the claims of literature made themselves more and more felt, and as he yielded to them one can hardly be surprised

that he lost to some extent his hold upon practice. And so Ernest Hart entered upon the third and greatest stage of his career; the successful general practitioner had given place to the accomplished specialist, who had now to make way in his turn for the man of letters and the hygienist.

As to Mr. Hart's first public appearance, we have the vivid testimony of an eye witness, the late Sir William Smart. In 1854 the Admiralty were appealing for naval surgeons for the Crimean War, and Ernest Hart, then a lad of 18, and still, of course, a student, saw the opportunity of attempting a valuable reform. He called together, at St. Martin's Town Hall, a meeting of the medical students of London, and in a telling and eloquent speech urged them to call upon the Admiralty to take naval surgeons out of the midshipmen's cockpit, and to treat them as men of professional education and gravity should be treated. His appeal was successful, and a signal and immediate benefit was secured to the service. This early interest in the Naval Medical Service he never lost, and it is mainly owing to his repeated efforts that the status of the medical officers of the navy is at present more satisfactory than that of the members of other branches of the Government Service, whose cause he espoused later, and continued to urge till his death. In the days of his connection with the *Lancet*, Mr. Hart conducted an inquiry into the workhouse infirmary system of the day. The exposures that he fearlessly published led to a Commission of Inquiry, and eventually to the establishment of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The value of this reform in the treatment of the most helpless section of the whole community, the sick poor, is inestimable; and during his later years Mr. Hart sought most strenuously to extend the benefits of the improvement to pauper sufferers in the provinces and in Ireland, as well as in the metropolis. It was ever characteristic of him to take up the cause of the weak and the oppressed with a trenchant vigour that respected neither parties nor personages, and to hammer away at his point till his demands had been acceded to. To enumerate the movements with which Ernest Hart associated or identified himself for the public weal would occupy more space than we have at our disposal. His powers of accomplishing these beneficent schemes were enormously increased in 1871, when he was elected Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, a post which he did not relinquish till a few months before his death. In this capacity he occupied the position of standing counsel, not alone for the rights of his own profession, but for the health of the whole community. Under his guidance the Committee had studied, attacked, and often abolished evils affecting every class of society and every period of life; it has sought to improve the adulterated food of the opulent and the sick bed of the dying pauper, and has taken under its care the health of the newborn infant and the pension of the superannuated officer. And it is admitted that nine-tenths of all its useful schemes emanated from its chairman. Particular notice must be taken of his efforts on behalf of the members of the Public Medical Services, of his crusade against the dangers of our polluted milk supply, and of his work in the causes of vaccination, of vivisection, and of the protection of infant life.

There was hardly a blot in the escutcheon of Public Health which his keen eye did not detect, or his ready pen expose. Thus he organised the Smoke Prevention Exhibition at South Kensington in 1881, and his services in this cause were warmly eulogised by Sir Frederick Pollock. Between 1875 and 1880 he conducted a vigorous campaign against working-class intemperance by his efforts to establish self-supporting coffee taverns, and to provide cheap musical entertainments without their ordinary accompaniment of intoxicants. He was Chairman of the National Health Society, and projected and was an active member of the Executive Committee of the International Health Exhibition of 1885. To his efforts towards the suppression of the baby-farming system we have already referred.

And all this work was done while he was vigorously editing and writing for the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, contributing to many of the leading periodicals, and frequently—and this is not generally known—to daily papers as well, living a full social life, cultivating one or two particular hobbies, and yet travelling fairly extensively. Even his journeys were turned to account, literary and hygienic. He was the author of one

or two delightful books on travel, marked alike by freshness of diction and acuteness of judgment. His visit to India in 1894 produced more noteworthy fruit. He immediately recognised the sanitary deficiencies of that country, and with characteristic fearlessness attacked the Government in a scathing speech actually delivered at Calcutta. At first an attempt was made to hush the matter up; then the author was the subject of bitter personal recriminations; but finally, in the teeth of official opposition, Mr. Hart's main points were won, and he lived to see the dawn of a new era in the health of the Indian people. It was a fitting climax to a life spent in the public service.

Of his other works, it will suffice to mention the well-known *exposé* of the shams of hypnotism, mesmerism, *et id genus omne*, originally published as a magazine article, under the title of "The Eternal Gullible," and eventually expanded into book form. He also contributed to several of the recent medical "systems," or encyclopedias. At the time of his death he was engaged in editing a series of lives of eminent men known as *Masters of Medicine*; and we understand that in addition to the volumes which have already appeared, one from his own pen on "Edward Jenner," is practically ready for publication. It may be said, indeed, that the closing years of Mr. Hart's life were marked by exceptional literary activity, which appeared to be stimulated in no small measure by the ill-natured attacks of a certain faction upon the manner in which he performed his editorial duties.

It need hardly be said that Ernest Hart was an enthusiast in all matters relating to the Jewish race. He lost no opportunity of proclaiming himself a Jew, or of expressing his pride in the race. When a lad of 15 we find him writing articles in *Fraser's Magazine*, strenuously urging the emancipation of the Jews. In 1877 he published *The Mosaic Code*, a work which has hitherto not been excelled as an exposition of Pentateuchal sanitation. It is distinguished by his universal lucidity of statement and cogency of argument, and these, combined with the weight of his authority to produce a profound and lasting impression. Many will also remember the brilliant lecture on the same subject which he delivered to Jewish working men a few years back. Replying to a question as to the nature of his religious belief, put by a voter of Mile End when he was a candidate in 1885, Mr. Hart said: "I believe in the one great living God. I was born a Jew, I am living as a Jew, and I shall die as a member of the great and glorious House of Israel." Mr. Hart was a member of the Maccabæans, in which society he took a particular interest. No one who was present at the dinner to Professor Meldola three or four years ago can forget his brilliant speech on that occasion. It was an eloquent vindication of Jewish intellect, and a final refutation of the charge that Jews had contributed nothing to the advancement of science. At a later date Mr. Hart accepted an invitation to dine with the Maccabæans, on the occasion of the adoption by the Indian Government of his scheme of sanitary reform, but at the last moment an attack of illness compelled him, to his lasting regret, to cancel the engagement. Curiously enough the meeting, which was hurriedly organised to fill the gap, served to introduce Dr. Herzl to the society. Mr. Hart was bound to the Maccabæans, not only by sympathy with their objects as a body, but by personal friendship with many of the members, and particularly of the Committee.

To a journalist, even in Mr. Hart's position, public honours come but rarely. In his case two were particularly noteworthy and sources of especial gratification. In 1883 more than 500 of his friends subscribed to present Mrs. Hart with his portrait, by Frank Holl, "in recognition of his many and valued services rendered to the profession at large, and especially to the Army and Navy Medical Services, and the influence which, during twenty-five years, he has exercised on sanitary and social progress, the advancement of the welfare of the sick poor, and the cause of public health." The presentation was made at Grosvenor House in the presence of many of the leading members of the medical profession and a large number of others who had been brought into contact with Mr. Hart in connection with some of his numerous public works. It may be mentioned that, as a likeness, the portrait is much inferior to that by Mr. Solomon in his picture "Your Health," exhibited at the Royal Academy a few years back. The other public recognition referred to

was the conferment of the honorary degree of D.C.L. upon him by the University of Durham in 1893. It is understood that if the state of his health had permitted him to make the journey to Montreal last year, a similar honour would have been bestowed upon him by the McGill University.

This is not the place in which to attempt an estimate of the value of Mr. Hart's work or an analysis of his complex temperament. We may, however, suggest a few leading thoughts as to which we can conceive but little difference of opinion. In the first place, he was unquestionably a great journalist, the greatest that has as yet arisen in the medical profession. He has indeed been described as a literary man who had drifted into medicine. He possessed that essential quality of a journalist, an unerring sense of the momentary fitness of things. His rapidity of judgment astonished and even appalled all those with whom he came in contact. He had an intuitive power of picking out the parts of a subject which he required, and rejecting the others. His literary style was in his earlier days the perfection of delicately balanced and withal forcible English; in later life he was wont rather to wonder at the care which he had spent in polishing his first efforts. In his recent writings—or, to be more accurate, dictations—much of the finish was lacking, but the lucidity was still evident, and the pungency more marked than ever. That he was a critic far more than an investigator is particularly obvious in his writings on scientific subjects. He possessed a most unscientific hatred of detail, and always referred to the microscopical work he did with the late Mr. Lockhart Clarke as a rather pitiable waste of time. Hence the amount of original work to be accredited to him is entirely insignificant. His gift lay in generalisation, and in the clever application of scientific facts to matters of everyday life. As an example of this may be quoted his excellent and practical papers on milkborne and waterborne diseases, valuable none the less because his knowledge of bacteriology was to all intents and purposes *nil*. And the monograph on diphtheria, which was one of his first published works, bears but little internal evidence that he had never seen a single case of the disease.

Socially, Mr. Hart was a well-known figure. He entertained largely till within the last year or so, both at Wimpole Street and at his charming country cottage near Tottenham. A more genial host or fascinating talker could hardly be found. His particular hobbies were artistic, and he was a famous collector, both of china and of things Japanese. Many of his curios were disposed of under the hammer a few months ago. At Tottenham, horticulture particularly interested him, and he was a singularly successful rose-grower. Mr. Hart was twice married, first to Rosetta, daughter of the late Mr. Nathaniel Levy, of London, and secondly to Alice, daughter of Mr. A. W. Rowland, of Lower Sydenham, who survives him. He leaves no children.

Finally, a glimpse at his most prominent characteristic, the one which will live longest in the minds of those who knew him. Ernest Hart was above all things a great fighter. The slight frail figure, the failing gait, the trembling hand of his later years, only enhanced the indomitable fire which lighted up his remarkable eyes. His ordinary speech was quiet and passionless, accentuated only by a curious curling of the upper lip on the left side. But public speaking roused him physically, and those who heard the addresses delivered by him when seeking election—as a Radical, of course—for Mile End in 1885, hardly recognised that the fiery orator was identical with the hard-worked man of the world to whom they were accustomed. But the warlike aspect was the true one, and his unconquerable pluck never left him while life lasted. Early last year the faction already alluded to decided to superannuate Mr. Hart from the editorship of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, and he was accordingly summoned before the Council of the Association. He appeared in due course, physically helpless, borne in on a chair and with the presage of death in his face. Without removing the perennial cigarette from his mouth, he told the Council that, although he was unable to stand, he was by no means unfit for work, as fortunately he was not required to edit the *JOURNAL* with his feet. He carried the day, and the new volume which commenced before his death bore, as usual, his name on the title page.

In this brief sketch many points have been perforce omitted; his interest in the medical education of women, the

help he gave to many a young medical journalist, his friendships with all sorts and conditions of people, his skill at chess, and his original views as to bed and night attire. But it is hoped that enough has been said to show that in Ernest Hart we have lost a very remarkable and distinguished man, a man of exceptional accomplishments and striking personality, and above all

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.

A TRIBUTE PAID BY THE REV. MR. SINGER AT THE SYNAGOGUE, ST. PETERSBURGH PLACE.

In the Synagogue at St. Petersburg Place, Bayswater, on Saturday, January 15th, the Rev. Mr. Singer, in the course of a sermon on Moses as the type of a man of public spirit, in whom indignation against wrong induced him to risk everything to serve the people, spoke as follows in reference to the loss of Mr. Hart: "Ernest Hart was an intrepid fighter against evil, and his death is a loss to his country and to science. Whatever his attitude towards Judaism may have been, it is well to remember that he never abjured his faith, and that he especially brought the Mosaic system of hygiene before the world as an example of an ancient and perfect method. He was certainly the most remarkable labourer in the field of public health that the Anglo-Jewish community has ever produced. His great talents were exposition and articulation. Whether in his work in protecting infant life, or in his crusade against workhouse infirmary abuses; or in impressing upon the public the dangers of the spread of disease from dairies; or in his strenuous fighting of the cholera fiend, as shown in his endeavours to regulate the Eastern pilgrimages; or as the prime mover in the successful attempt to provide public gardens; or in his sincere efforts for greater sobriety among the people, efforts which were characterised not by preaching but by the common sense method of offering counter-attractions in the form of coffee taverns; or as Editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, or in his great work as Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association—in each and all of these he made his voice heard and understood, and he wrought an enormous amount of good. The people and the poor will remain the residuary legatees of his great and unselfish labours. May the Lord of Life remember him who spent his days in giving life and health to others."

RESOLUTIONS OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCE PASSED BY:

The Irish Medical Association, January 11th.—"That the Council of the Irish Medical Association at this their first meeting since the lamented decease of Mr. Ernest Hart, the consistent friend of all Poor-law reforms, hereby desire to convey to Mrs. Hart and family an expression of their sincere regret at their sad bereavement."

The British Medical Association, Metropolitan Counties Branch, January 25th.—"That the Metropolitan Counties Branch desires to express its profound regret at the death of the late Editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, Mr. Ernest Hart, D.C.L."

"The Branch desires also to express its high appreciation of the ability with which he conducted for over thirty years the *JOURNAL* of the Association, and of his invaluable work in the cause of Medical and Sanitary Reform, and desires to express its sincere condolence with Mrs. Hart in her bereavement."

The National Health Society, January 12th.—"That this Committee, recognising the great loss sustained by the National Health Society in the death of Mr. Ernest Hart, places on record the warm appreciation of the important work done by him—as Chairman of the Council—for many years, and requests the Chairman of Committee to forward this resolution to Mrs. Hart, with an expression of condolence and sincere sympathy with her in her bereavement."

The Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Society, January 29th, 1898.—"The Committee of the Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Friendly Society beg to express their sympathy with Mrs. Ernest Hart in the loss she has sustained, and they desire to place on record their

appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Ernest Hart as Chairman of the Executive Committee for ten years, and afterwards as President of the Society."

The Society for the Study of Inebriety, January 21st, 1898.—"The Society deplores the serious loss which they have sustained in the death of their esteemed Vice-President, Mr. Ernest Hart, who had all along rendered most valuable services to the various departments of the great sobriety movement, and especially to the practical helping of reformed drunkards and others by the institution of coffee taverns, to the advocacy of legislation for inebriates, and to the distribution of knowledge on all topics which tend to the preservation of mental and bodily health. The Society also desires to present their condolences and sympathy to Mrs. Ernest Hart in her day of sorrow."

The Maccabees, January 10th, 1898.—"The Committee wish to convey to Mrs. Ernest Hart the most sincere condolence of the Maccabees on the death of their distinguished brother Maccabean, Mr. Ernest Hart. The sense of loss is enhanced by the fact that Mr. Hart took a most keen interest in their proceedings, and only two or three years ago made a very memorable speech at one of their gatherings."

The Japan Society, January 22nd, 1898.—"The Council of the Japan Society expresses to Mrs. Ernest Hart its sincere condolence with her upon her sad bereavement. It loses by the death of Mr. Ernest Hart a valuable coadjutor, who was ever anxious to advance the cause of Japan and its art."

SOME PERSONAL TRIBUTES AND REMINISCENCES.

[FROM THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.]

SIR HENRY THOMPSON writes: I send a few lines respecting my old friend, Ernest Hart, whom I knew more or less intimately throughout his life, dating from the close of his career as a student at St. George's Hospital. Among those personal qualities which strike me as the most salient were a fund of enormous energy, for many practical purposes inexhaustible; having this as a basis, he was endowed with a natural taste for logically arranging or organising, whether a subject for literary treatment or human agents for the execution of a purpose. He was remarkably fertile in resource when difficulties or perplexities lay in his path, and he had courage to overcome them when its exercise was required. Moreover, he was prompt to avail himself of new suggestions in the way of improvement from whatever quarter they proceeded, having the gift of ability to discern the value of new ideas and how to profit in some way thereby. However numerous or pressing the affairs with which he was occupied, each received due attention, and he could exercise a clear judgment respecting them and—often so difficult an accomplishment—preserved a due sense of their relative importance. Fully occupied with a crowd of engagements as he mostly was, and of late years much oppressed by weakness and ill-health, he would nevertheless greet the intrusion of an old friend with a welcome response, and detaching himself from the pressure of his surroundings would be ready at once to discuss, if required, a fresh subject thus brought before him. I deeply regret the loss of a sincere, loyal, and valued friend.

DR. LAUDER BRUNTON writes: Many a young physician has had reason to thank Mr. Ernest Hart for a helping hand held out to him at the time of his hardest struggle, and for literary work given to him when expenses were heavy and patients were few. To all such Mr. Hart ever showed himself most sympathetic, helpful, and kind. He not only provided them with work, but encouraged them in their efforts, and cheered them by his generous appreciation of their endeavours, and by his cheery outlook for them of good fortune in the future. By many such his loss will be felt as a personal bereavement, and they will remember him always as a friend in need, and as a helper when help was sorely wanted.

MR. FREDERICK GREENWOOD, who, when editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, enlisted Mr. Hart's services as an occasional contributor, writes: Only two days before your editor died, I received from him a bright little letter, with complaint in it, to be sure, of "a sharp and sudden attack of dyspepsia," a grumble at being robbed thereby of the bolder charms of breakfast, luncheon, dinner, a hint at sleeplessness of nights,

and a gird at his own "ridiculous despondency," but not a word that breathed a thought of dying. The despondency itself was dyspeptic, to his belief, or it would not have been called ridiculous. Till then, apparently (but we don't know what apprehensions a kindly nature may conceal) he was in hope of coming out into the world again, to take up the work which he always seemed to me to do with as much pleasure as vigour. The whole amount of it, the full value of it, is known to others much better than to me; but looking back upon an acquaintance of thirty years or more, I recall enough for any man to go to his grave satisfied with, both in quantity and quality. Considering the constant advance of medical knowledge, the mutation of opinion (do I come upon dangerous ground?), the frequency with which the best minds contend against new theories which are not unsound or yield to others that are, I make bold to assume that Hart must have been in his own profession a man in a thousand to retain the confidence of such a body as the British Medical Association, for a lifetime almost, as editor of such a JOURNAL as theirs. That, however, is but a guess, though pretty obviously a good one. But he was not all professional. In the long time that we were friends he was engaged laboriously, strenuously, and in general successfully, in many good works of which I could judge, and watched him in with admiration. These good works were always for somebody's benefit or for the benefit of an aggregate of somebodies. They would have been good if done under the coldest sense of duty; they were better—at least to eyes that saw them in the doing—because done with all the warmth of a sensitive and eagerly humane mind. In the whole they must make a long catalogue, and a most honourable one, and to the list of his successes in putting things right or righting things that were wrong, several failures might be added that were as honourable as any of the triumphs. Quite a young man when he was in the full activity of his career, he was still alert and good for work to the last—and good, too, for the enjoyment of life, which a wide range of tastes ministered to and a gentle temper enhanced. This is but a brief and hasty word, and I am loth to end it abruptly, but am still less in a mind to flourish off in a parting phrase.

MR. WILLIAM ADAMS, F.R.C.S., writes: I should be glad to be allowed to add a few words to the memory of my oldest professional friend, Ernest Hart, with whom I have been on terms of intimacy for over forty years. My acquaintance with Ernest Hart commenced in the year 1854 at the "Grosvenor Place School of Medicine," or "Lane's School," attached to St. George's Hospital, when, at the request of Mr. (afterwards Sir) Spencer Wells I delivered a course of lectures on orthopaedic surgery, and afterwards assisted Spencer Wells's colleague, Mr. George Pilcher, in the surgical lectures. At this time Spencer Wells went off to Smyrna, where the British Civil Hospital was established for the wounded soldiers from the Crimea. In 1854 Ernest Hart was one of the most distinguished pupils at Lane's School. He was always a favourite with his fellow students—bright, genial, and witty—and he was also a favourite with the surgical staff, who appreciated his great abilities. Mr. Timothy Holmes, who has done full justice to Ernest Hart's great abilities, and to his many-sided activity of mind, seems to have made his acquaintance, like myself, at Lane's School, and I can only endorse every word Mr. Holmes has said. Ernest Hart remained a true friend of mine ever since 1854, and only in July or August last, at one of his elegant garden parties at Totteridge, he remarked, "Don't forget, Adams, that I was one of your pupils." He was then happy and cheerful amongst his friends who have now to mourn his loss.

A number of other letters have been received from members of the profession expressing their regret at learning of Mr. Hart's death, among others from Sir James Paget, who observes, "I know that he always worked hard and usefully and well for the general good." Lady Russell Reynolds desires it to be said that she attended the memorial service in order to show her "grateful remembrance of the kindness and courtesy" which Sir Russell Reynolds received "during the memorable year of his presidency, from Mr. Ernest Hart and all members of the British Medical Association."

