

Annual address to the Royal College of Physicians on Monday, April 1st, 1901 / by Sir William S. Church.

Contributors

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THE
ANNUAL ADDRESS
DELIVERED TO THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
ON
MONDAY, APRIL 1ST, 1901,

BY THE PRESIDENT,
SIR WILLIAM S. CHURCH, M.D., LL.D., BART.

Printed at the request of the College for its Fellows.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY ADLARD AND SON,
BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE, E.C., AND 20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.
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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

THE past year has not been without incidents of interest and importance in the history of the College. It has received various communications from the Government and public bodies, and has, I trust, been able to render valuable services to the State.

LOSSES BY DEATH.

We have to lament the death of seven of our Fellows during the year, of 17 Members, and so far as can be ascertained of 122 Licentiates. The admissions into the College during the same period have been 12 Fellows, 29 Members, and 471 Licentiates.

ROYAL FAVOURS AND DISTINCTIONS.

An unusual number of Royal favours and distinctions have been bestowed on members of

our body. Her late Majesty was pleased to confer the Gold Kaiser-i-Hind Medal (First Class) for public service in India on Captain Charles Henry James, Indian Medical Service, Licentiate of the College. Captain James had been plague medical officer in Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur Districts, and on the 1st of January of this year a similar honour was conferred on Lieut.-Colonel James Sutherland Wilkins, D.S.O., Indian Medical Service. Among the New Year's honours, her late Majesty was pleased to confer a baronetcy on your President and on Dr. Thomas Barlow, Physician Extraordinary to the Queen and Physician to the Household.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint Sir James Reid, Baronet, K.C.B., a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, and has conferred the honour of Knight Commander of the Victorian Order on Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Bart., Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., and Sir William Broadbent, Bart.

AWARD OF PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC.

The Moxon Medal was awarded to Sir William Tennant Gairdner, K.C.B., as "pre-eminently distinguished by observation and research in clinical medicine." Sir William was present and received the medal at the Harveian commemoration. The Charles Murchison scholarship was last year awarded by this College, and the successful candidate was Mr. Thomas Crisp English, a student of St. George's Hospital and a Licentiate of our College.

The Jenks Memorial Scholarship was awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons, on the recommendation of the two Presidents, to Alfred George Sworn, late a pupil of Epsom College.

No award was made to the Parkes-Weber Prize, the adjudicators reporting to the College that they were unable to recommend any of the essays submitted as worthy of the prize; they subsequently reported also that, having examined the literature of the subject, they found no work published since the last award of sufficient merit to be recommended for the prize.

The Gilbert Blane Medals, which are presented biennially to the two surgeons of the

Royal Navy who shall be adjudged to have kept the best scientific and professional journals since the last award, were adjudged to Staff-Surgeon James M. Rogers and Surgeon Oswald Rees ; the senior Censor, in the absence of the President, acting as one of the adjudicators.

GIFTS TO THE COLLEGE.

During the year the munificent gift of £1000 promised by Dr. Theodore Williams, one of the Censors in 1899, was received by the College in two instalments of £500 at the quarterly meetings in April and October, when the thanks of the College were returned to the donor, and I think I shall only be acting in accordance with the wishes of the College if I again on this occasion express the thanks of the College for this most welcome gift. I trust that Dr. Theodore Williams may have many followers in the good example he has set our Fellows.

The College has also received from Dr. Pye-Smith the gift of a handsome oak table-case, in which some of the more interesting of the manuscripts, printed books, and other relics can be placed, and so be made available for inspec-

tion by our Fellows and Members. It has also to thank many of its Fellows for gifts of valuable books, more especially Sir Samuel Wilks, who has presented from his library an interesting collection of old books. Under our new Harveian librarian much improvement has taken place in the Library; the provision of a competent assistant in the Library, and the formation of a subject-catalogue of recent books, will render our Library much more available for use by our Fellows and Members.

COLLEGE LECTURES, ETC.

The usual College Lectures have been delivered. Dr. Mott was the Croonian Lecturer for the year; his valuable and most interesting lectures on "The Degeneration of the Neurone" have since been published, and reflect credit on English neurology.

On St. Luke's Day the Harveian Oration was given by Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Regius Professor of Medicine at Cambridge, the title of his oration being "Physiological Darkness before Harvey."

During the present year the Milroy Lectures have been delivered by Dr. J. F. J. Sykes on

“The Influence of the Dwelling on Health,” and the Lumleian one by our learned Harveian Librarian, “On Cancer, especially of the Internal Organs.” The Gulstonian has had to be deferred owing to the illness of Dr. Head.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The financial position of the College has given and gives great anxiety to your Treasurer and Finance Committee, and to those who are responsible for the working of the College. The Report of the Special Committee of the Royal Colleges upon the subject comes before you to-day, and will receive your earnest attention. The past is the first year in which this College has been on an equality, so far as regards the fees for the examination by the Conjoint Board, with the Royal College of Surgeons, and the accounts show a gain of £601 over the average profit made on the examinations after deducting the expenses of the examination hall and the payment of the examiners. Although this is somewhat satisfactory, the marked decrease in the number of candidates now applying for the examination of the Conjoint Board renders it

doubtful if the College is likely to receive, at all events for some years, the same amount of money from fees for examination as it did in former years. The whole subject was brought before the College in January, and was referred back to the Committee, who report to-day.

I have also to inform the College that the dispute which has for some years been going on between the College and the Inland Revenue Department is at last closed, but not, I regret to say, in our favour. We claimed, as did the Royal College of Surgeons, exemption from the property tax as a corporation devoted to education or science. The Royal College of Surgeons, as you will remember, fought the Inland Revenue on the point, but the decision in the Divisional Court, and afterwards in the Appeal Court, was adverse to them; and under these circumstances our advising counsel informed the College that it was useless to contest the matter unless the College were prepared to carry the matter to the House of Lords. This would entail an amount of expense which we are quite unable to meet, and consequently we must accept the decision of the lower courts.

The imposition of the property tax throws a

permanent burden of about £112 per annum on the College, and about six times that amount is due for arrears since the Inland Revenue first made a claim for it.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

During the year communications have taken place between the College and the General Medical Council on the subject of the registration of students, but the matter remains in exactly the same position as it did last year. I am in great hopes that the Committee of Management of the Royal Colleges, who now have this subject under consideration, will be able to devise means by which the difficulty as to the registration of students can be altogether obviated. A report dealing with other matters connected with the General Medical Council is presented to you to-day by the Committee of Management.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC BODIES.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board laid before

the College a request that it should give an opinion on the length of time that diphtheritic and scarlatinal patients should be detained. A committee, consisting of the President, Dr. Pye-Smith, Dr. Bridges, Dr. Sidney Phillips, Dr. W. J. Simpson, and Dr. Caiger, were appointed to consider the subject and report. In due course a report was made, and the College adopted the recommendation that a further and longer investigation of the circumstances under which recurrent cases occur should be made.

In May the Hon. Secretary forwarded certain questions to the College on the advisability of standardising drugs. These questions were referred to the Laboratories Committee, and their report was adopted.

At the Comitia on July 11th the President informed the College that the Secretary of State for War had requested him to serve as a member of the Royal Commission "to consider and report on the care and treatment of the sick and wounded in South Africa," and that he trusted the College would approve of his so doing, and of his appointing Dr. Pavy as Pro-president during his absence.

At the same Comitia a communication was received from Lord Lansdowne requesting the advice of the College as to the best means to be adopted for investigating the nature of dysentery in armies in the field. The College advised that a small commission of competent persons investigating the disease at the seat of war would be the most promising course. This advice was followed, and a commission of three, Colonel Notter and Major Bruce, of the R.A.M.C., and Dr. J. W. R. Simpson, our Fellow, were appointed.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The past year has seen the close of a movement which has occupied the attention of this College for sixteen years. After prolonged agitation, Parliamentary and Royal Commissions, and numberless meetings of committees and representatives of the various bodies concerned, the University of London, as a teaching as well as an examining body, has at last taken shape. Much yet remains to be done before its machinery can be in working order, but the College obtained in the extent of its representa-

tion on the governing body of the University all that it ever laid claim to.

Fresh bye-laws had to be enacted for regulating the election of the representatives of the College in the University, and at the meeting of the College on the 26th of July it very wisely elected as its representatives two distinguished Fellows, who had taken a most active and influential part in furthering the interests of the College—Drs. Pye-Smith and Allchin. To both of these Fellows the College is greatly indebted, and wishes, I am sure, to tender again their thanks. To Dr. Allchin, who for upwards of ten years had acted as Secretary to the Committee which watched all the proceedings in or out of Parliament in connection with the reconstruction of the University, the College is particularly indebted, and as an acknowledgment of this a vote of thanks and the sum of 100 guineas was unanimously awarded to him at the same meeting.

Our College, together with the whole country, rejoiced that the dastardly attempt made on the life of the Prince of Wales at the Brussels railway station on April 4th was followed by no

ill effects either to him or the Princess of Wales, and your President telegraphed to His Royal Highness our deep feeling of thankfulness at their escape. To this telegram I received a gracious answer, which I communicated to the College at the Comitia on April 26th.

At the meeting of the College on January 31st the College passed the following resolution, which was put from the chair:—
“That the College humbly approach His Majesty the King and express its profound sorrow at the loss which His Majesty and the Royal Family have sustained, and at the same time assure him of our loyalty and devotion to his throne and person.”

At the same meeting the College adopted the address which had been prepared by the College officers, and His Majesty was graciously pleased to receive a deputation from the College, consisting of the President, Censors, and Registrar, on March 20th, when the address was presented by the President, and His Majesty's gracious answer, which will be placed before you to-day, was returned to the deputation.

I thank the College very sincerely for the support and kind consideration it has shown me

in my endeavours to conduct the work of the College during the past year, and it now only remains for me to read some portions of the brief obituary notices I have put together of the Fellows who have gone from us in the course of the last twelve months.

SIR WILLIAM OVEREND PRIESTLEY, M.D.,
LL.D., M.P.

William Overend Priestley was born on June 24th, 1829, at Morley Hall, near Leeds, where his father, Mr. Joseph Priestley, was then living. He was the great-nephew of Joseph Priestley the theologist and scientist, the discoverer of oxygen, and the destroyer of phlogiston, the supposed inflammable substance which was thought to be pure fire, or the principle of fire inherent in combustible substances.

He received his early education in Leeds, and was apprenticed to Mr. Sadler of Barnsley, when he had as a fellow-apprentice the late Sir Spencer Wells. It is stated that Mr. Sadler early appreciated Priestley's abilities, and predicted that he would rise to eminence in his

profession. On leaving Mr. Sadler's he proceeded to Edinburgh, and early distinguished himself in science as well as medicine, for when only twenty-one years of age he read before the Botanical Society, of which he was then a Fellow, a paper entitled "Remarks on some British Species of *Carex*." In this communication he enters on what I believe is still a most difficult subject for botanists, the specific differences of certain of the varieties of British *Carices*.

In 1851, before he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine, he published a paper on "Pelvic Cellulitis and the Fasciæ of the Pelvis in the Female, illustrated by Dissections." It is said that this paper led to the intimacy which subsequently existed between Priestley and Sir James Y. Simpson. In 1853 he graduated as Doctor of Medicine, and was awarded the Senate Gold Medal for the year. Previously to taking the Edinburgh M.D. degree Priestley had become a member of our College in 1850, and of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1853. It was at this period that he acted for some years as assistant to Sir James Simpson, whose reputation was at that time at its greatest

height, and this position gave him an introduction not only to the public, but to all the leading obstetricians and gynæcologists of the day.

Priestley settled in London in 1856, immediately after his marriage with a daughter of Robert Chambers, author of *The Vestiges of Creation*, and thus became connected with the literary circles of both Edinburgh and London.

Shortly after taking up his residence in town he joined, in 1858, the Grosvenor Place School of Medicine as Joint Lecturer on Midwifery with Dr. Bloxham, and in the year of his appointment there delivered a course of lectures on the "Development of the Gravid Uterus," which were subsequently published, and met with much approval. In 1860 he became Lecturer of Midwifery and Physician-Accoucheur to the Middlesex Hospital, which post he held until elected in 1863 to the Chair of Obstetric Medicine at King's College. An attack of diphtheria, followed by partial paralysis, incapacitated him from work in the following year, and necessitated his retirement from town for some months. On his return he rapidly regained his private practice, and his

personal charm and professional reputation soon placed him in the front rank of obstetricians, and he became so occupied with private practice that he resigned his chair at King's College in 1872.

He had the honour of being selected to attend Princess Louise of Hesse-Darmstadt, and afterwards held the same position to Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

Elected a Fellow of our College in 1864, he served as Examiner in Midwifery for three different periods, was Councillor 1878-80, Lumleian Lecturer in 1887, and Censor in 1891-2. The subject of his Lumleian Lectures was "The Pathology of Intra-uterine Death."

Priestley added no ponderous or voluminous work to medical literature, but in addition to the above-mentioned papers he communicated several of very great value to the Obstetrical Society, of which he was an original member, and in its work took deep interest, serving the office of President in 1875-6. He contributed also to Reynolds' *System of Medicine* and to Allbutt and Playfair's *System of Gynecology*, and edited, in conjunction with Dr.

Horatio Storer of Boston, Simpson's collected works.

He presided over the section of Obstetric Medicine at the meetings of the British Medical Association in 1877, and again in 1895, when his address on "Over-operating in Gynæcology" attracted much attention and general approval.

In 1893 he received the honour of knighthood in recognition of his professional eminence and his services to the Royal Family. In 1896 he entered the House of Commons as member for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, being elected without opposition. His fine figure, engaging manner, and lucid and fluent speech would have enabled him to take a more prominent position in the House had he wished to come before the world as a politician.

I have attempted very briefly to sketch Sir William Priestley's professional career, but that gives but a poor representation of the man. This College knew him well, and it is unnecessary for me to attempt the task. He will long remain in our memories as an example of a high-minded, upright, and polished physician; while those of us who knew him better will look back with pleasure to the time passed in

his company. His delicate humour, his genial hospitality, and his never-failing kindness endeared him alike to his patients and to his numerous friends.

Up to the commencement of his fatal illness his threescore years and ten had not left much mark on him, and in carriage and manner he would have passed for a much younger man, and he was able to take an active part in all the duties and enjoyments of life. His jaundice was at first attributed to a chill contracted out shooting, of which sport, as well as salmon fishing, he was very fond; but as time passed, and the symptoms became more marked, it was evident that the cause was of a graver nature, being cancer of the head of the pancreas, and after a prolonged illness he died at his house in Mayfair on April 11th, and was buried at Warnham.

Sir William Priestley was a Fellow of numerous scientific and medical societies, both in this country, on the Continent, and in America; he also held the post of Consulting Physician-Accoucheur to the British Lying-in Hospital, West London Hospital, St. Marylebone Infirmary, and Paddington Provident Dispensary. He was also an honorary Fellow

and member of the Council of King's College up to the end of his life.

NICHOLAS TYACKE, M.D.

Dr. Nicholas Tyacke died at his residence, Westgate, Chichester, on May 7th, from an attack of bronchitis, at the great age of 88. He was the son of Richard Tyacke, of Godolphin, Cornwall, and was born on October 1st, 1812. The family of Tyacke appears to be a very ancient one, and to have been connected with Cornwall for many centuries. His father died when he was eleven years of age; his early education was obtained at the county school at Bodmin, and he commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Nesbit, of Honiton, in 1830, and matriculated at the University of Edinburgh in the following year. He seems at first to have devoted his attention rather to the study of natural history than medicine, attending lectures on botany and zoology, and he took part in the excursion for investigating the flora and fauna of Sutherland, which was organised in 1833 by Edward Forbes, Dr. Greville, and others. In 1834 he went to Paris to study anatomy, and the following year

visited Rome, Florence, Milan, and other Continental towns, returning to Edinburgh to take his doctor's degree in 1836. He spent some part of that year in attending hospital practice in London, and then, after passing some months in the study of obstetrics and the diseases of children in Paris, proceeded to Berlin, where he attended the hospitals and lectures during part of 1837. At this period of his life he was a confirmed wanderer, for the following year, after travelling in Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden, he spent the winter in London attending the practice of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, and towards the close of 1839 commenced practice in Exeter, but remained there less than a year, and in 1840 removed to Chichester, where he succeeded to the practice of Dr., afterwards Sir John Forbes, and from that date his wanderings ceased.

Dr. Tyacke was elected a Fellow of our College in 1860, but was seldom in London, and known to few of our Fellows. Upon settling at Chichester he was elected Physician to the Sussex, East Hants, and Chichester Infirmary, and remained connected with that institution until his death. Dr. Tyacke did not, so far as

I know, contribute to medical literature, but he was a busy and successful practitioner, and his advice was much sought for in the neighbourhood of Chichester, until his increasing deafness led him to resign practice. He was a member of the South-eastern branch of the British Medical Association, and for a time was President of the branch.

In local affairs Dr. Tyacke took an active interest; he was twice Mayor of Chichester, in 1843 and 1862, and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Sussex. He was urgent in his efforts to improve the sanitary condition of the town, and his activity in this direction was resented by the townspeople to such an extent that he lost his seat on the Town Council in 1868, and would not afterwards consent to serve; but he lived to have the satisfaction of seeing much of his advice followed in after years.

Dr. Tyacke, although not a total abstainer, was a strong advocate of temperance; he was a non-smoker, and never touched spirits excepting as a medicine. To his temperance he attributed his length of days and fine physique, for at the age of 87 his son informs me that his

head was as erect and his back as straight as at 20; and another friend writes of him in his old age as being "of rather more than middle height, of very upright figure and dignified carriage." He was a most courteous, straightforward and well-read practitioner taking to his last year of life an interest in medicine.

Dr. Tyacke was twice married, first in 1844 to Miss Foreland, by whom he had a family of nine children, all but one of whom survive; and secondly, in 1863, to Miss Buckton, by whom he had no family. For many years Dr. Tyacke was a prominent figure in the society of Chichester; respected by his fellow-townsmen and valued by his friends, he has left the example of a long and well-spent life.

DANIEL JOHN LEECH, M.D., D.Sc.

Daniel John Leech was the second son of Mr. Thomas Leech of Urmston, near Manchester, where Dr. Leech was born on January 12th, 1840. His education was entirely conducted in Manchester, and at an early age he became a student at Owens College, where he regularly attended classes from 1854 to 1857. In

1856 he became a pupil of Mr. T. G. Richmond, a practitioner living in Stratford Road, and in the following year joined the Manchester Royal School of Medicine. He qualified M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. within a month or two of his attaining the age of 21, and it is evidence of his power of work and ability as a student that he passed the London University Matriculation Examination, 1860, whilst engaged in the daily drudgery of an assistant in a large general practice, and in the midst of his preparation for his final examination at the Royal College of Surgeons.

After qualifying Dr. Leech spent some months in Paris, and upon his return was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Manchester Medical School. This post he held for two years. He passed the Summer Session of 1864 in London, acting as Clinical Clerk to Dr. Sibson at St. Mary's Hospital, and on returning to Manchester entered into partnership with Mr. Richmond, and for some years remained in general practice.

Dr. Leech obtained first-class honours in Obstetric Medicine when he passed the M.B. Examination at the London University, and became Honorary Physician to the Hulme

Dispensary two years later. In 1873 his connection with the Manchester Royal Infirmary commenced, first as Assistant Physician, and three years later he became Honorary Physician. He joined our College in 1875, and was elected a Fellow in 1882, and Examiner 1892-5.

It is in connection with pharmacology and therapeutics that Dr. Leech's name is best known. He may be said to have created the Professorship of Materia Medica and Therapeutics at the Victoria University. Appointed co-lecturer with Mr. Somers in 1876, he became in 1881 the first professor of the subject at Owens College, and with the aid of the College authorities established at no small expense to himself the Museum of Materia Medica, and the Department of Experimental Pharmacology attached to it; his reputation in this subject rapidly increased, and added greatly to the success of the medical school. He soon became recognised as an authority in therapeutics and pharmacology, and when elected to represent the University on the General Medical Council in 1891, his services were at once given to the Pharmacopœia Committee of the Council, and on the death of Sir Richard Quain he was

appointed Chairman of that most important committee.

It would be a great injustice to Dr. Leech to associate his name only with the subject which he had made especially his own. He was one of those conscientious workers who are never content to give less than their best, and his breadth of mind and wide range of knowledge is evidenced by the variety of subjects on which he sent contributions to the medical press. His most important contributions to medical literature were the Croonian Lectures, which he delivered in 1893, and subsequently published.

He was a clinician and therapist rather than a pathologist. Skin diseases interested him, and he organised a Dermatological Department at the Royal Infirmary, and was Honorary Consulting Physician to the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases.

He early turned his attention to sanitation, joining the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association in 1869, acting as its Hon. Secretary, and holding the position of chairman of its committee at the time of his death. To the value of his services to Owens College and the Victoria University his colleagues bear the

highest testimony ; he was successively a member of the Senate, of the Council and Court of Governors, Chairman of Convocation, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Representative of the University on the General Medical Council, and received in 1895 the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, in recognition of the value of his services to the University.

In the early part of last year it was evident to his many friends that Dr. Leech was in failing health. His symptoms were due to commencing cancer of the stomach. He bore his long, painful, and trying illness with the most perfect patience and fortitude, not repining at his lot, but regretting that he had not a few years longer in which to finish work half done, and thankful for the forty years of good health which had allowed him to accomplish so much. He died at his house at Whalley Range on July 2nd, leaving a widow, but no family, to mourn his loss.

SIR HENRY WENTWORTH ACLAND, BART., M.D.,
K.C.B., F.R.S.

Sir Henry Acland was the fourth son of Sir

Thomas Dyke Acland of Killerton, Devon, and was born on August 23rd, 1815. In due time, when thirteen years of age, he was sent to Harrow, where he had among other contemporaries Frederick William Faber, afterwards so well known as Father Faber, Head of the Oratory, Brompton, our late Fellow, Henry Monro, and the late Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, destined subsequently to be for many years as Professor of Chemistry his colleague at Oxford. After leaving Harrow, Sir Henry, having decided on entering the medical profession, went by the advice of Sir Benjamin Brodie to Oxford, and entered at Christ Church, having as his tutor Henry Liddell, and thus commenced his intimacy with that great man, who afterwards, as Dean of Christ Church, was enabled to assist Acland so materially in carrying out his plans for the study of modern science in Oxford.

At this period of his life Acland's health appears to have been far from good, and he was recommended to leave Oxford for a time. Having the opportunity of a voyage on H.M.S. *Pembroke*, he spent several months on board her in the Mediterranean, and acquired that love for the sea and admiration for the British navy which

he retained throughout after-life. Returning to the University he took his Bachelor's degree in Arts in 1840, and was elected the same year a Fellow of All Souls. In the same year he commenced the study of medicine at St. George's Hospital, and subsequently proceeded to Edinburgh, where he lived in the house of Dr. Alison, with whom he remained on the terms of the closest intimacy, and ever afterwards regarded with the greatest admiration and affection.

Before he had taken the Bachelor of Medicine degree he was offered, and accepted in 1845, the post of Dr. Lees Reader of Anatomy at Christ Church, and from that time onwards he is identified with all the changes that have been made by the introduction of modern subjects of study in the University. In 1846 he took his Bachelor of Medicine degree.

Even in these early days Acland interpreted the duties of a teacher in Anatomy in the University in a much wider sense than any of his predecessors. Stimulated by the teaching of John Goodsir and Richard Owen, he at once commenced to form a series of anatomical preparations on the lines of the Hunterian Collec-

tion, and spared neither time, labour, nor money in collecting and setting up a representative series of comparative anatomy specimens. In this work he was much assisted by Professor Victor Carus of Leipzig, then a young man.

The series of specimens he formed were lent by the Lee Trustees to the University, and formed the nucleus around which the magnificent collection now in the University Museum was aggregated.

At this period of his life (1846) he married Miss Cotton, a daughter of Mr. William Cotton, F.R.S., whose philanthropic work in the east of London, where his rope factories were situated, is still gratefully remembered, and for more than thirty years they were true partners in all the duties and joys of life, and the influence she exerted over Sir Henry did not cease even with her death in 1878. The year following his marriage he was appointed Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In Oxford and its neighbourhood Acland rapidly acquired a considerable practice, but it was not as a practitioner that he made his name either in Oxford or the world, for although he was extremely

fond of the clinical side of his profession, and almost to the end of his life kept abreast with the progress of clinical medicine, he became best known through his labours in the cause of sanitation and the public health. He may be regarded as one of the pioneers of modern sanitation, and to the end of his life sanitary questions occupied his mind. This may have been partly due to the battle he had to fight with cholera in Oxford in 1854, and his memoir on Cholera there was the first of numerous papers and addresses which he wrote on sanitary subjects. He was a member of the Commission appointed in 1854 to report on the method of determining what number of persons ought to be accommodated in a given space in the dormitories and wards of workhouses, and also of the Royal Sanitary Commission in 1869. In the interval he had studied and written on the drainage of the upper Thames valley and its sewage, and village health, and he used to refer with pride and satisfaction to the changes which, under his fostering care, had taken place in some of the insanitary parishes in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring counties.

In 1850 Sir Henry was elected a Fellow of

the College, and the succeeding year Radcliffe Librarian at Oxford. It was through his instrumentality that the library was moved to the Museum buildings, thus rendering it more easily available for those working there, and setting free the Camera Radcliffiana to be used as the Reading Room of the Bodleian. He succeeded Dr. Ogle as Regius Professor of Medicine in 1858, and from that time onwards occupied an important position, not only in the University, but before the general public. Upon the establishment of the General Council of Medical Education he was the first representative for Oxford, and from the very first took a deep interest in its work, and exercised much influence on its proceedings, and after sixteen years of service became its President in 1874.

As President he continued his exertions to raise the standard of medical education, both in regard to professional and general knowledge. He advocated the establishment of a single portal for qualification to practise, and in vain endeavoured to persuade his University to require the diploma of the Conjoint Board of England before admitting its graduates to the examination for its medical degrees. In the same spirit

he tried to effect a combination between the three Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London for the Diploma of Public Health, and always regretted his want of success.

In 1860 Sir Henry accompanied H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to Canada and the United States, and was appointed Honorary Physician to His Royal Highness when he took up his residence at the University the same year. His connection with the Royal Family was close and intimate, and in 1883 he received the honour of a Companionship of the Bath, being made Knight Commander the following year, and a Baronet in 1890.

His duties at Oxford prevented Sir Henry from taking much share in our College work. He delivered the Harveian Oration in 1865, a year memorable as being the first in which the oration was delivered in English, and he served on the Council from 1882 to 1884.

For many years Acland was the centre of professional life in Oxford. As Physician to the Infirmary and Professor in the University, he was known as the patron or organiser of every charitable institution or movement for the benefit of the poorer classes, and his un-

failing kindness was recognised and valued by rich and poor alike. In 1888 he had the misfortune to lose the sight of his left eye, which had to be removed, and from that time forwards he felt the burden of advancing years, resigning the Regius Professorship in 1894, but retaining the Radcliffe Librarianship until nearly the end of his life.

I have endeavoured to give a brief summary of the main features of Sir Henry's life as connected with medicine; it is impossible on an occasion like the present to do more than refer to the influence he exerted in Oxford and elsewhere on both Science and Art. Acland was gifted with the true artistic spirit, and the influence of his lifelong friend, Mr. Ruskin, must also have played an important part in forming his character. An accomplished artist himself, he took the greatest interest as one of the Curators of the Tylorian Gallery in fostering Art in Oxford. Like all great men he was in advance of his times, and much of the opposition that he from time to time met with in the University arose from the inability of his opponents to grasp his comprehensive views. His breadth and catholicity of mind, joined with the

artistic perception he possessed, enabled him at once to embrace in his conception of a subject branches of inquiry and future developments which those who objected to his schemes were quite unable to conceive or appreciate. The whole history of the struggle which preceded the building of the University Museum exemplifies this. Acland could foresee more clearly than others what the development of Science might be in Oxford, and fortunately for the University there were a few like Liddell who could enter into and understand the importance of his views.

Of Acland's personal character I do not like to trust myself to speak. From my student days in Oxford he was ever a kind friend and adviser, and for many years I had been on terms of intimate friendship with him. Like all great men he had his weaknesses, but they lay on the surface, and the more intimately you knew him the more you admired the great qualities he possessed.

No sketch of his life, however incomplete, must entirely omit reference to the charm of his house in Oxford, which formed a centre where all who were eminent in literature, science, or

art, religion or politics, were to be met, enjoying the liberal but unostentatious hospitality of the Regius Professor and Mrs. Acland. His breadth of mind and sympathetic disposition enabled him to be on terms of friendship and even intimacy with men of the most diverse schools of thought. He possessed in the truest sense Christian charity, and I believe that in the remarkable passage with which he concluded his will he has given faithful expression to what had been the guiding star of his life :

“ I pray that the faithful study of all nature may in Oxford and elsewhere lead men to the knowledge and love of God, to faith and charity, and to the further prevention and relief of the bodily and mental sufferings of all races of mankind.”

Sir Henry Acland died on the 16th of October, and was buried in the Holywell Cemetery at Oxford.

DENNIS EMBLETON, M.D.

Dr. Dennis Embleton, who died at his residence, 19, Claremont Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne,

on November 12th, was one of those distinguished Fellows of our College who uphold its reputation in the provinces, not only among the profession, but in society at large. It is not too much to say that thirty and forty years ago Dr. Embleton was a leader in all the progress which was made in literature, science, and art in his native city of Newcastle. As a boy I not infrequently met Dr. Embleton in society at Newcastle, and I remember the prominent position he held among those who took part in the literary and scientific progress then rapidly developing in the city.

Dr. Embleton was born on October 1st, 1810, and was left an orphan at an early age. After receiving a good education he was apprenticed to Mr. Leighton, Surgeon to the Newcastle Infirmary, and subsequently came to London, where he attended at the United Hospitals of Guy's and St. Thomas's, becoming M.R.C.S. in 1834, and L.A.S. the following year. For the next three or four years Dr. Embleton spent much time on the Continent, especially in Italy, studying in Rome, Bologna, and Pisa, as well as Paris. He travelled much on foot after the manner of the mediæval student, but neverthe-

less was able to pass the examinations required for the M.D. degree at Pisa in 1836.

In 1837 he settled in his native city, and the following year was Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology in the newly established School of Medicine at Newcastle, in which he also held the office of Registrar.

It was not until 1846 that he joined our College, although he had been admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons when the order of Fellows was first instituted in 1843. In 1852 he was appointed Reader in Medicine in the Newcastle School, and subsequently, in 1870, became the first Professor of Medicine and the Practice of Physic in the University of Durham, a post that he resigned in 1872. During this period of his life he contributed numerous papers to medical literature, which were chiefly communicated to the medical press of the time.

He represented the University of Durham in the General Council of Medical Education when that body was established, and remained a member until his retirement from taking an active part in the work of the Durham Medical School in 1872.

At the Sanitary Congress held in Newcastle

in 1882, Dr. Embleton presided over the section of Sanitary Science and Preventive Medicine, and his active mind led him to take great interest in everything which tended to the physical health or mental improvement of the people.

His tastes led him to devote much time to biological and antiquarian studies, and to both these branches of knowledge his contributions were numerous and valuable. He was associated with Messrs. Joshua Alder and Albany Hancock in the study of the Nudibranchiate Mollusca, and wrote in conjunction with the latter a treatise on *The Anatomy of the Doris*. The interest he took in antiquarian subjects caused him to make a special study of the Northumberland and northern counties dialects, and he wrote various short dialogues and poems in the Northumbrian dialect.

Dr. Embleton married, in 1847, Miss Turner, a lady of like tastes with himself; she died in 1869, leaving two daughters and one son, the late Dr. Embleton of Bournemouth, who was a Licentiate of our College, and known to many of our Fellows. Dr. Embleton of Bournemouth died a few months before his father, leaving a son now studying at Cambridge.

JOHN COCKLE, M.D.

Dr. John Cockle died at the advanced age of 87 on November 14th. Although among the oldest of our profession in the metropolis, Dr. Cockle was not among the oldest of our Fellows, as he did not become a member of our College until 1854, and a Fellow in 1869. I have been unable to gather any information of Dr. Cockle's early life and education. He became a L.S.A. in 1834, and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons the following year, obtaining the Fellowship by examination in 1847. He had previously taken the degree of Doctor of Medicine at Aberdeen.

Dr. Cockle first became known to the profession in London through being appointed Lecturer on Pathology, and subsequently on the Principles and Practice of Medicine at the Grosvenor School of Medicine, where he had as a colleague Sir Spencer Wells, who was lecturer at the same time on Surgery. In 1858 he was appointed Physician to the Royal Free Hospital, and with that institution he remained connected as Physician and Consulting Physician till his death. Previously to his connection with the

Royal Free Hospital he was Physician to the Margaret Street Dispensary for Diseases of the Chest and to the City Dispensary. Dr. Cockle, as the older among us can remember, was an earnest pathologist and a frequent attendant on the meetings of the Pathological Society, the pathology of the heart and large vessels being a favourite subject with him, and one on which he wrote four pamphlets, besides contributing papers to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on the same subjects. He had earlier written an essay on *The Poison of the Cobra di Capello*, which attracted considerable attention and shows much originality of research, and about the same time (1854) translated from the German and edited Weber's *Clinical Handbook of Auscultation and Percussion*. He wrote also on intra-thoracic cancer, and in 1867 published a pamphlet, *Thoughts upon the Present Theories of the Algid Stage of Cholera*—his main theory being that this condition in cholera arises from a paralysis of the abdominal sympathetic nerves.

Dr. Cockle was an active member of the Medical Society, and filled the office of President and delivered the oration on the occasion of the centenary of the Society, choosing as his

subject "A Review of some Recent Doctrines concerning the Mind" which he subsequently published.

Dr. Cockle was at one time in considerable practice in Brook Street, but as he advanced in years gradually retired, living at West Molesey, and having consulting rooms in Suffolk Street. Latterly increasing deafness had led him to withdraw entirely from practice for some time before his death.

Dr. Cockle was buried in the Brompton Cemetery.

JOHN BAPTISTE POTTER, M.D.

Dr. Potter was born in London in 1839, during the period that his father, Cipriani Potter, was Principal of the Royal College of Music. The latter was the friend of Beethoven, and introduced much of Beethoven's music to the British public. Dr. Potter's family was an essentially musical one; his father was a skilful pianist, and among his pupils at the Royal Academy of Music were Sterndale Bennett and the brothers Macfarren. Dr. Potter had the musical tastes of his family, but decided on

following medicine as a profession. After leaving the Kensington Grammar School he was an apprentice to Dr. Sloman, of Farnham, and became a medical student at University College Hospital in 1858, qualified M.R.C.S. 1862, and graduated at Edinburgh in 1863. For the next six or seven years Dr. Potter held various minor appointments in connection with London and provincial hospitals, becoming a member of our College in 1868, and in December of the following year was appointed Assistant Obstetric Physician to the Westminster Hospital, and in 1874, on the death of Dr. Frederick Bird, Obstetric Physician and Lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women in the Westminster Hospital School.

About this period (1872) he married, and his widow and two daughters and one son survive. In 1881 he was elected a Fellow, and has twice served as Examiner in Midwifery for our College.

Diffident and modest by nature, and with a shy and somewhat hesitating manner, Dr. Potter was not calculated to become a fashionable physician; his work was rather that of an obstetrician than a gynaecologist, and he did not add much to medical literature. His reputation

as a practical obstetrician stood deservedly high, and his judgment and skill was highly appreciated by his colleagues. For many years he was closely associated with the work of the Obstetrical Society, which he served as Librarian, Vice-President, and Treasurer, and afterwards in 1885-6 as President.

Dr. Potter also took great interest in the Society for the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, and for the last eleven years of his life was the acting Treasurer for that charity. The excellent business capacities he possessed made such work pleasant to him, and his services both to the Obstetrical Society and to that for the widows and orphans of medical men were greatly valued.

For some years before his death he was in declining health; in December his condition became serious, and he died on the 30th of that month in the hospital he had served so well.





