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OBITUARY NOTICES.

CHARLES ALEXANDER CAMERON.

ALTHOUGH Sir Charles Cameron was personally known to but a small proportion of our present members, his name has been so long and so closely connected with the Society that his death, which took place on February 27, will be felt as a loss by all of us.

Cameron, who was born in 1830, was the son of an officer who served in the Peninsular War and in the war against the United States. He was educated in Dublin and in Guernsey, where his parents lived from 1844 to 1846. On the death of his father he returned to Dublin; and entered the laboratory of Messrs. Bewley and Evans, apothecaries. Here he acquired a practical knowledge of pharmaceutical chemistry, meanwhile attending lectures on chemistry, physics, and medicine at the Royal Dublin Society.

In 1852 the Dublin Chemical Society was founded, and Cameron was elected its Professor of Chemistry; and this appointment soon led to the Professorship of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy in the Dublin School of Medicine, to which he was appointed in 1856. Soon afterwards he became Professor in the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland.

In 1860 the first Food and Drugs Act was passed, but, as the appointment was made permissive, few authorities troubled to appoint Public Analysts, and, in consequence, the Act soon became a dead letter. Dublin, however, was one of the few towns to make use of the Act, and, in 1862, Cameron was elected Public Analyst for that city—a post which he retained until his death. He was the third Public Analyst in the United Kingdom to be appointed under the Act. Subsequently, when the Act of 1870 was passed, rendering the appointment of Public Analyst obligatory, Cameron was chosen by no fewer than thirty-three counties and boroughs as their official analyst. In fact, from the number of these appointments he was often humorously referred to as "The Public Analyst for Ireland."

In the early days of our Society, Cameron contributed numerous papers on the analysis of milk, water, and drugs, which were published in *THE ANALYST*. He served on the Council in 1878-81, became Vice-President in 1882-3 and again in 1889-90, and held the office of President in 1893 and 1894. He was also a Vice-President of the Institute of Chemistry. In addition to his chemical posts, he held numerous medical appointments, being Medical Officer as well as Public Analyst for Dublin, and he served as President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

He was an honorary M.D. of the Royal and National Universities of Ireland and an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. In 1885 he was knighted in recognition of his efforts to improve the dwellings of the working classes, and in 1898 was appointed a C.B. in recognition of his long services in his important public posts.

Of forensic medicine and toxicology Cameron was long the acknowledged chief exponent and practitioner in Ireland, and his versatility was such that he for many years occupied the leading position in the country as both teacher of and practitioner in agricultural chemistry. His re-written edition of Johnston's earlier well-known work on this subject long occupied the position of a leading textbook. Among his many other contributions to scientific literature was a history of the Irish Royal College of Surgeons, his intimate association with which has been already indicated.

Few men can have had a larger circle of friends than Cameron or were more popular in Dublin society. He was delightful as a host and as a guest, and a charming talker with an ever-flowing fund of wit and humour, never exercised, however, at the expense of pain to others, for his kindliness was even greater than his wit.

Apart from his numerous professional occupations, one of the main delights of his less strenuous hours was in Freemasonry, of which he was one of the most ardent and most honoured supporters in his native country.

But not the least of his achievements was the retention of his full mental faculties and his physical working powers beyond his ninetieth year.

BERNARD DYER.

ALEXANDER WYNTER BLYTH.

WE deeply regret to record the loss of one of the original members of our Society, Dr. Alexander Wynter Blyth, whose death took place suddenly on March 31.

Wynter Blyth was the son of a medical practitioner, and was born in 1846 at Woolwich. He was educated for the medical profession at King's College, London, and became qualified in 1870. At a later period he studied law, and was called to the Bar as a member of Lincoln's Inn.

In 1878 he was appointed Public Analyst for Totnes, and subsequently for the County of Devon, in 1879 for Tiverton, and in 1882 Medical Officer of Health and Public Analyst for St. Marylebone, posts which he held until his death.

In the early days of the Food and Drugs Acts the appointments of Medical Officer and Public Analyst were frequently held by the same individual, and it was quite a common practice for medical men to spend a few months in the laboratory of a chemist to acquire some insight into the duties of what was then regarded as a subsidiary appointment.

Under such conditions it is not surprising that many of the early medical Public Analysts were not competent chemists, or that few improvements in the methods of chemical analysis originated with them.

Wynter Blyth was a striking exception, for having been trained as a chemist, he took an active interest in the affairs of the Society of Public Analysts from its inception.

A paper of his upon milk was published in 1876 in the *Proceedings*, which was the forerunner of the *ANALYST*. Numerous other contributions upon the analysis of foods and drugs will also be found in subsequent volumes of the journal. He served on the Council of the Society in 1877 and on three other occasions, and was thrice elected Vice-President, the last occasion being in 1895.

He also contributed to the *Transactions* of the Chemical Society, but he will be best remembered by his books on foods and poisons. Originally these formed parts of one volume, but in later editions the subjects were divided and published as separate works. The section on Foods was a comprehensive survey of the existing microscopical and chemical knowledge of the subject, and was one of the earliest attempts to systematise the modern methods of analysis. Its sixth edition in separate form was published in 1909 and reviewed in the *ANALYST* of that year. The second portion of the book included much information which was not readily accessible elsewhere, and as a manual of historical toxicology filled a distinct gap. Its fourth edition as a separate book was reviewed in the *ANALYST* for 1907, and a new edition has just been published.

As an instance of the unexpected detail to be found in this work, it may be recalled that in one of the actions arising out of the epidemic of arsenic poisoning of twenty years ago, it was pointed out that the possibility of glucose being a source of arsenical poisoning had there been mentioned.

It is interesting to note in this connection that Wynter Blyth was one of the earliest chemical investigators of cobra poison, and in 1878 received a Government grant in aid of his research.

He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry in 1887 and served on its Council on two occasions. He was also Past President of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers and Registrar of the Sanitary Institute. EDITOR.

SOREN HOY BLICHFELDT.

MR. SOREN HOY BLICHFELDT died on March 3, after a very short illness, at the age of forty-four.

Blichfeldt was born in Denmark, and received his chemical training at the Royal Pharmaceutical College in Copenhagen. His inclination towards fermentation problems then led him to the world-famous fermentation laboratories in Copenhagen, where he became one of Alfred Jorgensen's most valued assistants. Here he worked for several years on questions connected with the application of pure culture methods in the brewing and dairy industries, and while here he wrote a well-known Danish textbook on bacteriology.

In 1906 he joined the staff of the Maypole Margarine Works (then Messrs. Otto Monsted, Ltd.), and, as its chief technologist, was responsible for much of the development of the improved methods of margarine manufacture now in use. He remained with this firm until his death, at which time he was Assistant Managing Director.

He was always more interested in the application of science to industry than in pure science; hence his contributions to scientific literature lie mainly in the records of the Patent Office.

He was the originator of a distillation method for the estimation of mixtures of butterfat, coconut oil, and palm kernel oil, and a few days before his death his method for the determination of melting-points of fats was read before this Society.

He possessed a remarkable insight into the scientific problems underlying the industry with which he was connected, and his keenness and inexhaustible energy led to their rapid solution. His kindly tolerance and his generous spirit inspired a rare loyalty and enthusiasm in his staff, and his joyous disposition and entire freedom from affectation makes his loss all the greater.

T. THORNLEY.