In Memoriam.

ARTHUR WYNNE FOOT,

M.D. UNIV. DUBL.; F.R.C.P.I.

DIED, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1900.

ANNO ÆTATIS SUE, LXIII.

"When sorrows come, they come not single spies,
But in battalions"—

"One woe doth tread upon another's heel,
So fast they follow."

IN our last number we recorded with sorrow the unexpected death of one of our ablest surgeons, Sir William Stokes, while serving his Queen and Country in the South African War. Now it is with renewed grief and regret that we chronicle the death of one of the most brilliant physicians that Ireland has ever produced—ARTHUR WYNNE FOOT.

It is true that, owing to his retirement from active practice eight years ago in consequence of failing health, Dr. Foot was not well known to the most junior members of his profession. But among his contemporaries and among physicians of even a few years' standing he enjoyed a well-deserved reputation as a great physician, an erudite and accomplished man of letters, and an original thinker of the first rank.

ARTHUR WYNNE FOOT was born in Dublin on January 22, 1838. His father was Mr. Lundy Edward Foot, Barrister-at-Law, of Upper Fitzwilliam-street, Dublin; his mother was Lelias, daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Callwell, of Fitzwilliam-square, Dublin. His family was an offshoot of the Foots of Cornwall, who came over to Ireland with William III. He was educated at Portarlinton, under the ferule of the Rev. J. A. Wall, M.A. In due time he entered Trinity College, Dublin, and was apprenticed as a medical student to Mr. Maurice H. Collis, one of the Surgeons to the Meath

In Memoriam.

Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary. Of this institution he was destined in after-years to become physician, and finally senior physician after the resignation of Dr. William Stokes, of world-wide fame.

In 1862, Foot graduated in Arts and Medicine in the University of Dublin, and at the same time took the Licenses of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Ireland. In 1865 he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and in 1866 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, then known as the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland. Shortly after he qualified, Dr. Foot was appointed a Demonstrator of Anatomy in the School of Physic in Ireland, Trinity College, where he soon made a name for himself as a teacher. He remained on the staff of the School of Physic for eight years—that is until 1871, when he was appointed Physician to the Meath Hospital in the room of Dr. Alfred Hudson, resigned. His election took place on April 8th, and in the following June he took, with three others, the Diploma in State Medicine which had been instituted in Trinity College, Dublin, at the instance of Dr. William Stokes, F.R.S., D.C.L., the Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin. Foot's fellow candidates for the Diploma were John Todhunter, Gerald Francis Yeo, and John William Moore—all of them his personal friends.

At the Meath Hospital Foot threw himself into the work of a clinical physician with characteristic enthusiasm and unqualified success. His Introductory Addresses breathed the *genius loci*, and are models of what such addresses should be in manner, matter, and diction. To pathology he paid especial attention, as was to be expected of one who as a medical student had won the silver medal of the Pathological Society of Dublin for an essay on "The Pathology of Diseases of the Testis."

Towards the end of 1872 Dr. Foot was appointed Lecturer on Practice of Medicine in the Ledwich (Original) School of Medicine, Peter-street, Dublin, in succession to Dr. James Little, who was elected to the Chair of Medicine in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on December 13th, 1872. As a Lecturer Dr. Foot was as thoroughly

In Memoriam.

successful as he had already proved to be in the capacity of a clinical teacher. By a natural coincidence, it was fated that he should once more succeed Dr. Little when that able Professor vacated the Chair of Medicine in the Royal College of Surgeons in 1883. On June 2nd of that year he was elected Professor of Medicine in the College School, continuing to discharge the duties of the Chair, first singly and afterwards (on the amalgamation of the Carmichael College of Medicine and of the Ledwich School of Medicine with the School of Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons) in conjunction with his colleague Dr. John William Moore, until obliged by failing health to give up the active practice of his profession in 1893. In 1880 he was chosen President of the Pathological Society of Dublin.

DR. FOOT'S contributions to medical literature were of sterling merit. The following, among many others, appeared from time to time in the pages of this Journal—"Chromidrosis"—a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Dublin in 1866, "Bromidrosis" (1866), "Xanthelasma" (1876), "Aneurysm of the Abdominal Aorta in a Female" (1870), "Select Clinical Reports" (1872-73-74-75-81-86), "Commentaries on Diseases of the Kidneys" (1878-79). The subjects of some of his other papers were "Argyriasis," "Gastric Epilepsy," "Gynæcomazia," "Hydrophobia," "Tuberculosis," "Scleroderma," "Epilepsy," "Narcolepsy," "Morphinism," "Life Assurance," "Graves's Disease," "Reminiscences of the Dublin Biological Club" (1892), &c. These papers are valuable monographs on the various subjects with which they deal. They display the most extensive research, coupled with the most masterly originality, and are written in singularly clear, beautiful, and what may be called *nervous* English. It is to be hoped that DR. FOOT'S remarkable contributions to Medicine will be gathered together and republished in book-form under the editorship of one of his many and admiring pupils.

Many years ago DR. FOOT married the eldest daughter of Mr. Edward Hunt of Belmore, near the ruins of Jerpoint Abbey, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. Another of Mr. Hunt's daughters is married to Dr. Gerald F. Yeo, formerly

In Memoriam.

Professor of Physiology, in King's College, London. DR. FOOT'S wife survives him, and she it was who tended him with unwearied and loving devotion through years of delicate health. To her unceasing and watchful care he owed in great measure the prolongation of his life. His malady was locomotor ataxy, associated with repeated attacks of hæmorrhage due to sclerosis of the arterial system. To the last his great mental powers remained almost intact, and the end came with startling suddenness. On the morning of Saturday, September 1st, he was seized with an attack of apoplexy. Absolute unconsciousness accompanied the attack, and in six hours he passed through death into Life.

A great physician by education, training, and experience, FOOT never enjoyed a large private practice. He was often misunderstood, and the keenness of his intellect coupled with a satiric vein sometimes alienated those whose grasp of medicine was less philosophic, and who approached its practice in a less reverent spirit and a more matter-of-fact fashion. Sham, quackery, and cant FOOT utterly abhorred, and those who coquetted with such doubtful methods of professional advancement sometimes came under the lash of his epigrammatic sarcasm.

But among his past pupils he was idolised. They had the highest opinion of his diagnostic and remedial powers. By them he was frequently called in consultation to the most difficult and urgent cases in the most distant parts of the country, and while his health permitted there was probably no other Dublin consultant who travelled more over Ireland than DR. FOOT. Fertile in resource, brave in the presence of infection, knowing neither class nor creed in the practice of his profession, tender-hearted and sympathetic as a woman in trial and sorrow, ARTHUR WYNNE FOOT played his part in life nobly and well. An inner circle of friends, who knew the man, came first to esteem him, then to love him. To them his death is a personal sorrow, which time alone can assuage. To them and to all time his life-work happily remains as a heritage and a monument more enduring than brass.

J. W. M.