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Obituary Notice of Dr John Lindsay Stewart

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JUSTUS LIEBIG was born on the 12th May 1803, at Darmstadt. He early showed a strong inclination to the study of experimental chemistry, and was sent, at the age of fifteen, to an apothecary's shop at Heppenheim to learn pharmacy. There he remained only ten months, and returned to Darmstadt. He remained at home for some months preparing for a university course, upon which he entered, in 1819, at the University of Bonn. He soon left Bonn for Erlangen, where he studied chemistry under Kastner.

Assisted by the liberality of the Grand Duke Louis of Hesse, he proceeded to Paris, and worked in Gay-Lussac's private laboratory. He attracted the notice of Humboldt, who was then resident in Paris, and was appointed, in 1824, Extraordinary Professor of Chemistry in the University of Giessen. In 1826 he was raised to the ordinary professorship. In 1845 the Grand Duke of Hesse conferred upon him the title of Baron von Liebig. In 1852 he accepted the invitation of the Bavarian Government to the ordinary Professorship of Chemistry, and the Directorship of the Chemical Laboratory in the University of Munich. He died 18th April 1873 at Munich. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Botanical Society on 10th June 1841.

ROBERT MACKENZIE STARK was the son of the Rev. William Stark, minister of the parish of Dirleton, East Lothian. He was the author of a "Popular History of British Mosses," and followed the occupation of a nurseryman for many years in Edinburgh. He was elected a Resident Fellow of the Society on 11th March 1841. He died at 7 Grafton Street, London, on 29th September 1873, aged fifty-eight.

WILLIAM MITCHELL, city missionary, died at 15 Upper Grove Street, Edinburgh, on 10th April 1873. He was elected an Associate of the Society on 9th December 1858, and contributed several papers, which are printed in the Transactions, including "Serial Internodes of Plants" (vol. vi.), "Measurements of Axial Appendages of Plants" (vol. vi.), "Trichotomous Arrangements of Plants" (vol. vi.), and on "The Equations of the Curved Outlines of the Leaves of Plants" (vol. x.).

CHRISTOPHER CURRIE RITCHIE, M.D. and C.M., son of William Ritchie, cattle-dealer, was born in Edinburgh on 13th December 1842, and there his early education was carried on. In 1863 he commenced his medical studies at the University of Edinburgh, and gained many honours in his classes. He was dresser and clerk in the clinical surgery wards, and for nine months clerk in the medical wards. He joined the Botanical Society of Edinburgh on 12th January 1865. In 1867 he took the degrees of M.B. and C.M. with honours, and was appointed physician's assistant to the Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Afterwards he studied for a few months in the hospitals of London and Paris, and was, in the spring of 1868, appointed house-surgeon to Professor Syme's wards in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. At the end of his period of office he acted for nearly a year as resident physician's assistant to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. In 1869 he graduated as M.D. Edinburgh, and on leaving the Infirmary settled in Moss-side, Manchester, and was elected honorary physician to the Hulme Dispensary. He was afterwards appointed honorary secretary of the Manchester Medical Society, and became a fellow of the Pathological Society of London. Early in 1873 he was elected assistant physician to the Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

On the evening of 26th July 1873 he went a couple of miles to see a patient for another doctor. He returned about 11 p.m., and complained of being tired. He was called again to the same patient about 1.30 a.m. on the 27th, and he remained with the child all night, and seemed quite exhausted on his return at 9 a.m. He and Dr J. W. Paton went to Dr Glascott's after breakfast, where, about 12.30, Dr Ritchie complained of pain in the bowels. This became worse in spite of suitable treatment, and he sank from enteritis, and died about 6.30 a.m. on 30th July 1873, at the residence of Dr Glascott, 21 St John Street, Manchester. He was interred at Spott, Dunbar. Dr Ritchie wrote his graduation thesis on "Keratitis;" and he contributed to the British Medical Journal, "Memoranda on Herpes Cornox;" to the Lancet a paper on "Intermittent Tetany;" to the "Medical Times and Gazette" one on "Rickets;" and to "The Practitioner" an article on "The Hypodermic Injection of

Ergotine in Hæmoptysis." He also edited the second edition of Dr Roberts's work on "Urinary and Renal Diseases," and the Supplementary Catalogue of the Library of the Manchester Medical Society.

THOMAS SANSON, Custom-house, Newcastle, died in March 1872; but his obituary was overlooked last year.

Obituary Notice of Dr John Lindsay Stewart.

By H. CLEGHORN, M.D.

Indian Botany has been deprived of one of its most diligent workers by the death of Dr John Lindsay Stewart, late Conservator of Forests in the Punjab. Dr Stewart was a native of the parish of Fettercairn, Kincardineshire. He obtained his medical education in Glasgow, where he was a pupil of the late Professor G. A. Walker Arnott. After taking the degree of M.D. at the University of Edinburgh, he became a candidate at the first competitive examination for admission to the Indian Medical Service, and out of forty-two applicants he was fifth on the list. In 1856 he proceeded to the Presidency of Bengal as assistant-surgeon, and was present at the siege, assault, and capture of Delhi in 1857. In 1858 he joined the expedition to the Yuzufzai country, and served for some time with the 14th Punjab N. I. In 1860-61 he officiated for Dr W. Jameson as Superintendent of the Botanic Garden, Saharunpore and of the Government Tea Plantations in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. On Dr Jameson's return to India he was appointed Civil Surgeon at Bijnour in Rohilkand, and in 1864 he was employed in arranging a system of forest conservancy in the land of the five rivers.

During the whole of his Indian service Dr Stewart devoted all his spare time to botanical pursuits. His position at Saharunpore gave him an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted with the vegetation of the Terai and North-West Himalaya, and afterwards at Bijnour he studied the Flora of the Rohilkand forests, and of the outer valley between the Ganges and Sardah. As Conservator of Forests in the Punjab, his duties took him to all parts of that province, and he extended his journeys to the adjoining

province of Sindli, to Kashmir, and to the arid, treeless, but botanically most interesting inner Himalayan tracts on the Upper Indus, Chenab and Sutlej rivers, which adjoin Turkistan and Tibet. His wiry frame and indefatigable energy enabled him to accomplish much rough travelling, and few Europeans or natives of the country were able to keep up with him in walking and climbing. During his journeys, under the most difficult circumstances, he maintained with great persistence his habit of taking copious notes on the spot, and in this manner he accumulated an immense store of valuable information regarding the natural history, the properties, uses, and vernacular names of the plants of North-West India. The results of these researches are embodied in numerous papers (of which a list is appended) published in the journals of various Societies. His official reports while at the head of the Forest Department in the Punjab contain the record of a large number of accurate observations on the arborescent vegetation of that province; and in 1869, before coming home on furlough, he published a most useful work on the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants of economic value growing in the Punjab. This work, entitled "Punjab Plants," contains systematic and vernacular names and notes on the geographical distribution and uses of upwards of 800 species. In another respect, also, Dr Stewart rendered great service to the cause of forest administration in India, for he commenced the large and now flourishing fuel and timber plantations in the plains of the Punjab.

In 1869, after twelve years of unremitting labour, mental and bodily, Dr Stewart returned to England on furlough, to recruit his strength and to refresh his memory on professional and scientific matters; and the Government of India entrusted him with the preparation at Kew of a Forest Flora of Northern and Central India. To this great work, which purposes to give an account of the natural history of the trees and principal shrubs and climbers in the forests, Dr Stewart devoted a large part of his furlough, but he was obliged to return to India before it was completed.

He was naturally of a highly nervous temperament, and during the latter part of his residence in England it was evident to his friends that his general health was much

impaired. This was further apparent on his return to India, when, after a few months of office work, sickness obliged him to move (June 1873) from Lahore to the Hill Sanitarium at Dalhousie, where he gradually sank from paralysis on the 5th July, aged forty-one, his old friend and school-fellow, Dr Fairweather, waiting on him in his last illness. He was buried under an oak tree in the Dalhousie Cemetery. One of his last requests was that his Herbarium and MSS. should be sent to his Alma Mater, the University of Glasgow. He had when in this country presented a large collection of North Indian plants to the Herbarium of the Edinburgh University, and the MS. used in the preparation of the "Forest Flora" is deposited in the Library of the Royal Herbarium, Kew.

Dr Stewart was kind and generous to all who required his help, and his loss is regretted by a large number of friends in India and in this country. He was a member of numerous learned Societies, among others of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and of the Royal Geographical and Linnean Societies. He was elected a Fellow of the Botanical Society in 1869.

Botanical Writings.

1. Memorandum on the Peshawur Valley and its Flora. Jour. As. Soc. Beng., 1863.
2. Notes on the Flora of Waziristan. Jour. R. Geog. Soc., 1863.
3. The Sub-Sewalik Tract, with special reference to the Bijnour Forest and its Trees. Jour. Ag. Hort. Soc. of Ind., vol. xiii., 1865.
4. Journal of a Botanising Tour in Hazara and Kaghan. Jour. A. H. Soc. of Ind., vol. xiv., 1866.
5. Trees in the Punjab Salt Range. Jour. A. H. Soc. of Ind., vol. i., N.S., 1867.
6. Forest Conservancy in the Punjab. Calc. Review, June 1867.
7. Railway Fuel in the Punjab. Calc. Review, February 1868..
8. Punjab Plants. 8vo, Lahore, 1869.
9. Notes of a Botanical Tour in Ladak and Western Tibet. Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin., vol. x., 1869.

JOSHUA SUTCLIFFE, Fir Grove, Burnley, Lancashire, died on 10th February 1873. He was born at Halifax, Yorkshire, on 10th April 1812. He studied medicine, and be-

came a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1835. He entered the Botanical Society on 11th March 1841, and was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society on 6th May 1834.

ROBERT W. THOMSON, C.E., was born in the town of Stonehaven in 1822, and by sheer force of character, without any adventitious aid, rose to be a leader in his profession and a benefactor to his country. He was a distinguished engineer and inventor. When only sixteen years old, he conceived the idea of the ribbon saw, afterwards worked out by other hands; and the elliptic rotary steam-engine. In 1862 he invented that by which he is most widely known, viz., the Road Steamer—a name given by him to a traction engine having thick india-rubber tyres on the driving wheel. For the last five years of his life he was constantly confined to the sofa or his bed, having lost the power of walking. He died at his house, 3 Moray Place, on Saturday, 8th March 1873, aged fifty. He was elected a Resident Fellow of the Society on 13th April 1865.

JOHN TORREY, M.D., LL.D., one of the Honorary Fellows of the Society, died on the 10th March 1873, from an attack of pneumonia. He was born in New York in 1796, and prosecuted his studies in that city. He early showed a taste for botanical pursuits, and in 1819 gave an account of the New York Flora. He subsequently published a Flora of the United States north of the Potomac. He gave an account of the plants of the Rocky Mountains, and a catalogue of the North American Geums. He was associated with Dr Asa Gray in preparing their great Flora of North America. He published also numerous botanical treatises on special American plants. The genus *Torreyia* was named in compliment to him by the late Dr Walker Arnott. Besides being a good botanist, Dr Torrey was also a successful chemist, and gave lectures both on botany and chemistry in the Medical College of New York. He subsequently resigned his office as a teacher, and became connected with the Government Assay Office. He gave his botanical collection and books to Columbia College. He was

elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society on 9th February 1837.

ROBERT TRAILL was born in the parish of Maryton, near Montrose, on 24th January 1796, and died at Aberlady Lodge, near Drem, after twelve days' illness, of inflammation in the lungs, on 1st November 1873. From infancy he showed an intense liking for flowers. This taste he seems to have inherited from his father and grandfather, both of whom took great delight in gardening. For the last fifteen years, at least, he devoted most of his time to his garden and greenhouse, and took special pleasure in rearing geraniums, fuchsias, and auriculas, of which he possessed a very large and varied collection. He took a deep interest in the Infirmary and the Lunatic Asylum in Montrose, of both of which institutions he was a director for many years. He was devotedly fond of reading all his life—principally history, travel, and biography—and possessed a very large amount of general information. He was elected a Resident Fellow of the Botanical Society on 13th April 1865, and although in his seventy-seventh year, he attended frequently the meetings of the Society.

JAMES WARD was elected a Fellow of the Society on 12th May 1836, and contributed largely to the Society's Herbarium. For upwards of fifty years Mr Ward made British plants his study, and few of his contemporaries were more accurately acquainted with them. Up to the last, though afflicted with a painful and crippling disorder, his mind was clear and his love for plants unabated. He was an active promoter of the Richmond Naturalists' Field Club, and a valuable Herbarium belonging to that club was mainly formed through his exertions. Mr Ward was remarkable for keenness of observation, rarely failed to find what he was in search of, and never was backward in imparting to his friends a share of his spoils. At different periods of his life he visited Switzerland and Ireland in search of plants, and delighted in cultivating in his garden some of the rarities he had met with in excursions both at home and abroad. For many years he resided at Richmond, in Yorkshire, where he was engaged in business, and after his

retirement from business he removed to Redcliffe House, near Manchester, where, after a long and painful illness, which latterly assumed the form of carditis, he died on 7th March 1873, in his seventieth year.

FRIEDRICH WELWITSCH was born in 1807 in Carinthia, in the Austrian empire, where his father was the owner of an extensive farm. He died in London in October 1872. He was elected a Foreign Member of the Society in January 1866. A full obituary, with portrait, of Dr Welwitsch is given in the "Journal of Botany," vol. ii. (New Series).

Miscellaneous Communications.

1. Mr Wm. W. Robertson, Carolside, Earlston, exhibited a section of a stump of a larch tree, cut down upwards of thirty years ago, and which had continued to increase by additions of wood on the outside, year by year, ever since. At the request of Mr Sadler, he had traced the roots proceeding from the stump, and found them to be engrafted into the roots of another larch, growing about three feet distant.

2. A letter was read from Dr Thomas Mawson, dated from Nickerie, Surinam, giving some account of the vegetation of that district, and offering to send dried specimens of the plants met with growing wild on the dams between the brakes in the sugar-cane fields, and also a paper on the cultivation of the sugar-cane and sugar manufacture.

3. Dr Robert H. Ramsay communicated a list of sixty species of plants which were in flower in his garden at Duncan House, Torquay, on 12th November.

4. Mr Andrew T. Jaffray presented to the University Herbarium a series of dried specimens of the different species and varieties of *Cinchona* cultivated in the Government plantations at Darjeeling; he also presented specimens of the barks to the museum of the Royal Botanic Garden. —Mr Andrew Brotherston, Kelso, presented specimens of plants collected in that neighbourhood, including many species which had been introduced with wool, and become naturalised.