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PRESENTATION TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRE- LAND OF BRONZE PLAQUE OF THE LATE JAMES LITTLE, M.D., EX-PRESI- DENT, 17th JANUARY, 1922.

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. PROVOST, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise with mingled feelings to say a few words upon the occasion which has brought us here to-day—the date of which would have been much earlier but for circumstances beyond our control. On the one hand I have the duty, may I not say the chastened pleasure, of handing over to the care of the College the Memorial which now adorns its walls. On the other hand, a crowd of memories rises up when I think of the man with whom I was intimately associated for fifty years. Never can I forget his unvarying kindness and his fostering help to a young aspirant in his faltering footsteps upon the uncertain path of private practice. For, once your friend he remained ever your friend.

Dr. James Little was born and reared in Newry, and carried with him throughout life the impress of his Northern nationality. Soon after he was qualified he was placed for a time in charge of the Armagh County Infirmary, where he gained the friendship and high esteem of his seniors, Dr. Robinson of Armagh, and Dr. James Cuming, the then leading physician of Belfast. For three years he acted as surgeon in the service of the P. and O. Steam Packet Company, to and from India, and thus gained experience of the world which

proved valuable in later life. He spent two years in private practice in Lurgan, and then devoted a year to post-graduate study on the Continent, and when in full practice in Dublin he made himself familiar with the chief foreign spas and health resorts.

Spurred by ambition and attracted by the lure of Dublin, he forsook the limited sphere of country practice, and came up to town to try his fortune in the larger arena as an unknown man. Thanks in large measure to the influence of his firm friend, Dr. Alfred Hudson, Little was appointed Physician to the Adelaide Hospital, with which he was honourably connected for forty-six years, and where he laid the foundations of his after success. The wheel of life revolved slowly at first, and many years ago he told me that at the end of his first year in Dublin he felt his prospects so doubtful that he was uncertain whether to remain here or not. But by stubborn will, and above all by strenuous work—so often disregarded in these times—he carried the day. He preached and practised the gospel of work, and never claimed an eight-hour day. The guiding principle of his life was :

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”

Step by step he mounted the ladder of success, until he became the foremost consultant of his day, and was appreciated in all quarters of Ireland.

He was an admirable and impressive clinical teacher and lecturer, and filled, in turn, two Chairs of the Practice of Medicine, first, in the Ledwich School of Medicine, Peter Street, and later in the Royal College of Surgeons.

Socially, he was equally delightful as host or guest, and his after-dinner speeches were always happy, never tiresome, and often illuminated by scintillations of sly humour, which put everyone in a genial mood. To use a biological phrase, he was keenly responsive to his environment, and his shrewd and ready wit piloted him safely through difficult situations.

In 1898 he capped his honours by being appointed Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin, in succession to Sir John Banks, K.C.B. He occupied with distinction this dignified post for sixteen years. He was not desirous of

dignities, and upon more than one occasion declined to accept a titular honour.

His manifold activities were not limited to this country, for in 1897 he was appointed Crown Nominee for Ireland on the General Medical Council, and took a most active share in its proceedings. He was always listened to with attention and respect, and so popular was he with his comrades that at one time he was within a point or two of being elected President of the Council.

His energy and capacity for work were unfailing, and in addition to other weighty demands upon his time he took up in 1898, the onerous post of editor of the DUBLIN QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, now known by the title of the DUBLIN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, which is now the official organ of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland.

He did not write any book of signal importance, and his life will survive in the memory of his contemporaries rather than in medical literature.

He was warmly attached to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and received from it every possible token of honour or office. For two years he zealously and courteously filled the responsible and sometimes trying post of Registrar of the College. He reigned as President for two years, and steered its course with unfailing dignity, generous hospitality, and consummate tact.

Mindful of the precept that it is not good that man should be alone, he married at the age of 35, and had three children, who survive him, two sons and a daughter. During the course of a long, active and happy life, quitting himself as a man, and always keeping his heart young, he gained the esteem and affection of an immense circle of friends and patients, came to his "grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." His memory will ever be cherished by those who knew him : "his leaf also shall not wither."

This College has ever delighted to honour its faithful sons. In the Main Hall we are proud to have four of the finest works of art in the city, viz., the statues of Graves, Marsh, Corrigan, and Stokes. Three of them are by the chisel of Foley, and one by Bruce Joy, both of these artists being of Irish birth. On the walls hang numerous portraits, chiefly of Ex-Presidents,

going back to the latter half of the 17th century. Of these perhaps the most notable is that of Sir Dominic Corrigan, who presided over the College for the unprecedented term of five years, in compliment to his energy and liberality in rearing this building which stands on the site of the old Kildare Street Club, destroyed by fire.

The foundation-stone of this building was laid by H.E. The Earl of Carlisle, 7th July, 1862.

On the part of the Fellows, I now ask the College to accept and hold in honour the Memorial of an Ex-President, Dr. James Little, whose ways were ways of pleasantness and all his paths were peace.

WALTER G. SMITH, M.D.

