

# Supplement.

## Obituary.

MR. JAMES BLAKE BAILEY.

WE record with profound regret the death of Mr. James Blake Bailey—one of the earliest members of the Association—for many years a member of the Council, and recently a Vice President. He acted as one of the Local Secretaries for the London Meeting in 1889, and all who were present on that occasion will recall his unfailing courtesy, exuberant energy and business ability. We have a melancholy pleasure in copying from the *British Medical Journal* the following eulogium of our deceased colleague.

"To many of our readers the news of the untimely death of Mr. James Blake Bailey, the justly popular Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, will come with a shock as of a personal loss. And indeed the loss of an officer with such power to help, and such readiness to use it on behalf of anyone who asked for it, is one of a distinctly personal nature to those who had occasion to visit the great library in Lincoln's Inn Fields. His knowledge of medical literature, and particularly of its bypaths and hidden nooks, was extensive and accurate, and it was a real pleasure to him to place his stores of information at the disposal of all members of the profession. His good nature in this respect made him a target for all sorts of questions from correspondents all over the country; not a few of these were of a sufficiently idle character, but to all of them Mr. Bailey did his best to furnish an answer, often at the cost of an altogether disproportionate amount of trouble. He took a pride in the noble collection of books entrusted to his keeping—and not unnaturally, for it is hardly too much to say that he had transformed it from a wilderness to a model of order and convenience. The usefulness of a public library depends largely on the courtesy and amiability of its guardians, and in this respect, as in his technical skill and literary knowledge, the College of Surgeons will find it no easy matter to replace the highly competent officer whom it has just lost. Mr. Bailey, who was only 48 years of age, was a graduate in Arts of the University of Oxford, and was trained in the Bodleian Library. From this he passed to the Library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and thence some ten years ago to the post from which he has now been removed by death. He contributed frequently to the general press, and regularly to our own columns, where his assistance was much valued; he was also the author of various books, among which may be mentioned *Modern Methuselahs* and the *Diary of a Resurrectionist*, which was published only last autumn. He also edited some medical tracts by Marat, who played so sanguinary a part in the French Revolution. Mr. Bailey leaves a widow, to whom, we are sure, the sympathy of all who knew her accomplished husband will be extended in her bereavement."