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PART I.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. I.—*A Sketch of the Life and Work of the late Dr. Alfred Hudson, Physician to the Queen in Ireland.*^a By JAMES LITTLE, M.D., Univ. Edin.

As this is the first occasion on which the Hudson Scholarship has been awarded, it seems fitting that some one should explain how this Scholarship has been created, and should, even in a brief and imperfect way, tell the students of this hospital something of the great physician whose name it bears. I willingly undertake this duty, believing, as I do, that you who are now starting on your professional careers may learn lessons of the utmost value from the story of his life and work.

Alfred Hudson was the son of a Congregational clergyman in Staffordshire. He began his medical education as the apprentice of a general practitioner in his native town, but his father does not appear to have been happy in the selection of a master for his son. He spent his time in a comfortless surgery, and was left, as far as his master was concerned, without any instruction in the practice of the profession he had adopted. In the same town, however,

^a Circumstances prevented the appearance in this Journal of any notice of the late Dr. Hudson at the time of his death, and we, accordingly, gladly publish this sketch of his life and character. It formed part of an Address given by Dr. James Little, on the occasion of the first adjudication of the Hudson Scholarship. A short time before Dr. Hudson's death his brother, Mr. Henry Hudson, of Chester, munificently placed at Dr. Hudson's disposal the sum of one thousand pounds, to be applied as he thought right in the promotion of medical education in Dublin, and Dr. Hudson put it in trust to found a scholarship in connexion with the Adelaide Hospital.—Ed. D. J. of M. S.

was another practitioner of a superior stamp; he made the lad's acquaintance, and, as far as possible, helped him. He lent him books, and among them Sir Astley Cooper's "Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations." Ignorant though the lad must have been of anatomy, the descriptions of the great surgeon made a vivid impression upon his mind. Soon afterwards the master was called to an aged woman, a parish patient, who had hurt her shoulder; when he returned he directed his apprentice to prepare a bottle of liniment, and to carry it to the patient two miles away. The lad obeyed, but on reaching the house proceeded to examine the injured woman. He thought he recognised in the flattened shoulder and lengthened arm Sir Astley's signs of fracture of the neck of the scapula, and accordingly he made a bandage and put up the arm. In after years, and with added knowledge, he still remained of the opinion that his diagnosis had been correct. Considering how rare this injury is, it may reasonably be doubted whether such was the case, but the patient soon felt the relief afforded by the properly supported arm, and the young apprentice, returning to the surgery, placed the bottle of liniment on the table, informing his master that a broken shoulder-blade required a bandage—not a liniment. If the treatment received by the apprentice had been harsh before, it became cruel now. He appealed to his father to remove him, and to afford him the opportunity of pursuing his studies properly. He resolved, to use his own words, "that if he could not be a physician he would not be an apothecary." He left his master, and made his way to London, but he was a stranger there, and for three days he went out and in of the hotel at which he lodged without definite aim or object. There were, however, at the hotel some North country folk—"good people," to use Dr. Hudson's own expression—who got into conversation with the lad, and having heard his story, wrote to his father, and got a promise from the old man that he would supply funds to enable his son to pursue his studies as he wished. He had a boyish ambition—a childish fancy it was indeed, yet on it turned his whole future life—he would become a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. An indispensable qualification for that Fellowship in those days was the possession of a degree from Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin. Being a Nonconformist, he was excluded from the degrees of both the English Universities, and had, therefore, no alternative but to seek his education in the University of Dublin.

He entered the University in the year 1830, and pursued simul-

taneously his course in arts and his medical studies. His love for his profession and his determination to study it thoroughly were strongly stimulated by the brilliancy and enthusiasm manifested in the teachings of Macartney, Graves, Stokes, and Crampton; and up to the end of his life he often quoted the philosophic observations of those great teachers. This was the period when the science of the physical examination of the chest and of the investigation of disease by the examination of the dead had received a new impulse from the French school. Fresh and unexpected light was being thrown on the nature and diagnosis of disease, and earnest students could not fail to catch the enthusiasm and hopefulness which a new discovery is sure to create. Before Dr. Hudson came to Dublin, however, and afterwards, he studied with attention the writings of the great observers of a previous period. He saw how much there was true to nature in the writings of the physicians who had lived and worked and watched disease before pathological examinations were so common, and before percussion and auscultation had lent their aid in diagnosis. He had verified what was true to nature in their writings, and never abandoned his confidence in the diagnostic and therapeutic wisdom of Cheyne, Armstrong, Fordyce, and Huxham. This same quality of mind, so valuable, and, I think, so rare—this power of retaining what is true in the experience of the past, while discarding the theories and fancies with which the facts have become interwoven—was displayed by Dr. Hudson throughout his long professional career. During the last fifteen years of his life there was probably no physician in Dublin who used more constantly the new drugs, and put more frequently in practice the therapeutic discoveries of the period in which we live. I myself remember he was the first physician with whom I came in contact who appeared to use widely, and for varied purposes, the bromides, the salicylates, and the sulphocarbolates; and yet he clung tenaciously to his faith in tartar emetic as the remedy for acute congestions of the kidney, in the power of mercury to control serous inflammations, and in the efficacy of issues and setons and blood-letting in certain conditions of disease.

After obtaining his degree Dr. Hudson, following the example of Stokes and Corrigan, spent a winter at the Edinburgh School, and then naturally turned his eyes to the rich and, at that time, splendidly prosperous land of his birth. He had friends through whose interest it seemed likely he might secure his appoint-

ment as Physician to the Birmingham General Hospital, and he had almost completed his arrangements to settle there, when Dr. Gilroy, of Navan, whose daughter Dr. Hudson was about to marry, sustained a paralytic seizure. It seemed certain that unless Dr. Hudson took up the practice, which was of great moment to his family, its value would be lost. Discarding what appeared to be a brilliant opening in England, Dr. Hudson went to Navan, and continued to carry on the practice there while Dr. Gilroy lived—a period of nineteen years. Soon after he settled there he had the good fortune to have the Navan Fever Hospital committed to his charge, and he thus had an opportunity of following out one of his favourite investigations—the study of fever. It soon became apparent to those who came in contact with Dr. Hudson that he really knew his business. He had acquired in the dead-house of the hospital a true conception of the anatomical changes which are present in disease, and had learned in the wards how to ascertain by a physical examination the existence of these changes during life, and, as a consequence, when he was brought to the bedside of the sick he was able to speak with a precision of which few practitioners were at that time capable as to the nature and probable course of the disease. The public soon came to repose confidence in him, and medical men even at some distance were not unwilling to profit by his aid in consultation. He did not altogether sever his connexion with Dublin, but was favourably known to his former teachers as the author of some original papers of merit and of occasional reviews which appeared in *The Dublin Journal of Medical Science*. It would seem that Dr. Hudson always looked forward to the occurrence of a vacancy in the surgery of the County Infirmary at Navan, believing that he would obtain the appointment, and would thus secure a more commanding position as a consultant both in medical and surgical cases. The surgery of the Infirmary at last became vacant, but he lost it by a single vote. I sometimes see a gentleman who takes to himself the credit of having made Dr. Hudson's fortune, as it was his vote which, given to Dr. Hudson's opponent, decided the election. About the same time Dr. Gilroy died, and feeling that on the one hand he had little hope of advancing his position in the county Meath beyond that to which he had already attained, and on the other that his aged relative was no longer alive to suffer by his failure if he did not succeed in Dublin, he took, as I believe, rather hurriedly the determination to leave Navan, and seek for practice

in the capital. He sent Mrs. Hudson to town to ascertain whether any suitable residence could be obtained, and she brought back an advantageous offer from the late Dr. Collins, the obstetrician, who was about to retire from practice, to transfer to him his house in Merrion-square.

There was a good deal of courage displayed by Dr. Hudson in moving to Dublin. He had not saved money; it was necessary that he should begin at once to make at least a moderate income or he could not live. He had lost the opportunity of gliding into, and was indeed, I believe, unfitted for any of those tutorial occupations by which the younger members of the profession in most cases support themselves. The family practice in the city was at that time, even to a much greater extent than at present, in the hands of the general practitioners, and when a physician was to be consulted the public had men of acknowledged position among whom they might choose. Graves indeed was dead, but Marsh, Corrigan, and Stokes were in the zenith of their fame. Mayne was only kept back by his own modesty from the commanding position to which his varied attainments and untiring hospital investigations entitled him, and those physicians whom at the present time we regard as the acknowledged leaders of the profession were all favourably known, and had made considerable way in practice. "Here," said Sir William Wilde to a friend, "is Hudson come to Dublin to starve." I believe there was only one man—a former solicitor in this city, who had kept up a friendship with Dr. Hudson since their college days—who encouraged him to leave Navan.

For some years I am satisfied (though I was not in Dublin at the time) Dr. Hudson found it difficult, indeed I think not always possible, to make his income meet his necessary expenditure. He was tried by the temptations of difficulties and adversity as he was afterwards tried by the no less dangerous temptations of a commanding position, and in neither was he found wanting. The patience, the self-denial, the shunning of mean ways which marked his earlier struggles were equalled by the modesty, the kindness, the respect for the feelings and reputation and welfare of others, and the freedom from jealousy which characterised his later years. I know that unkind speeches made of him at this time by an envious rival, and carefully repeated to him, did not prevent him, when he had far passed that rival in the race, putting handsome fees in his way.

Soon after his settlement in Dublin the scheme for the establishment of this hospital was started by the late Dr. Walsh, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Wharton, Mr. Morgan, and my present valued colleagues, Dr. Barton and Mr. Richardson. Dr. Hudson joined in the project, and his influence with some noble families whom he had attended in Meath had the effect of securing for the scheme valuable patronage and substantial aid. Dr. Duncan and he were the original physicians, and when I look round in the building in which we now work and compare it with the limited accommodation and the few facilities for clinical teaching which Hudson enjoyed, and when I think that, notwithstanding these disadvantages, and the still greater disadvantage that for twenty years he had been away from the schools, and that lecturing, in the ordinary sense of the term, was always to him an impossibility, and when I recollect the enthusiasm for work which he inspired in those who followed him round the old wards of the Adelaide Hospital, I cannot but feel that though we follow in his path, we do so with unequal steps.

After two or three years' work here a vacancy occurred in the Meath Hospital, and, as we cannot wonder, Dr. Hudson availed himself of the invitation to become the colleague of Dr. Stokes, his former teacher. There he sustained the reputation he had acquired here, until the absorbing engagements of private practice compelled him to resign his hospital appointment. During the earlier years of his Dublin career, Dr. Hudson probably had few patients, except old friends from Meath, who from time to time consulted him, and others who were committed to him by Dr. Stokes, who appears always to have stood his friend; but once he had the opportunity of showing in the wards of a clinical hospital his skill as a physician, his practice rapidly extended, until it became so large that he was daily obliged to decline the consultations which were offered to him. His published writings were few, and, although they were excellent, I do not believe they contributed materially to his reputation; even his lectures on Fever would not lead me to form the exalted opinion of his skill which was produced at the bedside by his consummate ability in prognosis, and his wonderful fertility of resource in treatment. I had not the opportunity of watching Dr. Hudson rise in popular esteem, for he was already in large consulting practice when I settled in this city; but having enjoyed what I must ever regard as one of the greatest advantages of my life—an unbroken friendship with

him during subsequent years, and now speaking to men to whom the lessons of such a life may be of unspeakable value, I will try and tell you what were the qualities of mind and character which led him, in spite of such difficulties, to achieve such success.

Dr. Hudson had not the advantages which are usually reckoned of most importance in determining the position of a professional man. He was past middle life when he entered on his career in Dublin; he had no powerful connexions or even friends; he was not the adopted of any religious, political, or social clique; he had no courtier ways; he made no display of success before he had attained it. Against the want of these elements of success he had, in the first place, a genuine love for his calling and a deep sense of its responsibilities, and this led him to bend his mind to every case which came before him with absorbing earnestness. Whether the ailment appeared a serious or a slight one, he proceeded to its investigation with concentrated attention. As a result of this he necessarily acquired, as years went on, such an extensive and accurate acquaintance with the various forms of disease and the various groups of symptoms met with among the sick, that, discarding immaterial points, he was able rapidly to seize those which were essential for diagnosis and treatment. Out of this concentrated attention to his work there also sprang a marvellously retentive memory. Late one evening I asked him to call on his way home, as an act of kindness, to see a doctor's widow, who was seriously ill in her lodgings in Lower Mount-street. There was nothing in the patient nor in the circumstances calculated to make much impression on the mind, but years after, when the case had almost passed from my recollection, Dr. Hudson, who had at the time a thousand patients for one whom I had, reminded me of the case, and drew my attention to the occurrence in another sufferer of a symptom which had proved of diagnostic value in the previous patient. He was a master of physical diagnosis; his eye, his touch, and his ear had come to detect signs so slight that they escaped less cultivated senses. Working at the bedside of the sick from the very beginning of his medical training, and gathering his impressions of disease as much from nature as from books, he displayed in obscure and doubtful cases a singular capacity for diagnosis. Where there was no distinct symptom or sign sufficient in itself to reveal the nature of the case, Dr. Hudson possessed what I may be allowed to term a judicial faculty. He saw in what direction the evidence chiefly tended, and although conclusions made on such premises

must, from the very necessity of the case, prove sometimes erroneous, his guesses were, as a rule, singularly correct. Springing likewise out of his genuine love for his profession and abiding sense of its responsibilities was his conspicuous fertility of resource in the treatment of disease. Whether the case were trivial or necessarily fatal, or apparently depending for its issue on decided and energetic treatment, Dr. Hudson always puzzled himself to offer every suggestion which might prove useful in cure or palliation. Along with this love of his calling, Dr. Hudson always appeared to me to possess a singularly correct sense of what was right and fitting in the varied and complicated relations of life. In his relations with his professional brethren, and in his dealings with his patients, he was sure to adopt the course which was likely, in the long run, to prove the best for all concerned. He never made gushing professions of friendship, but, unlike most men, his friendly acts passed far beyond his words. Where, as must from time to time happen in the life of a physician in great consulting practice, he has, if he is honest to his patient, to give advice which may reflect on the previous conduct of the case, Dr. Hudson never allowed the interest of the patient to suffer, but, at the same time, with surprising tact, protected the reputation of his less skilful brother. Looking below the surface, he esteemed men not according to the position they occupied, but according to the qualities they displayed, and having proper respect for himself, he gave to them the respect which they deserved. He had among his patients not a few of the highest rank, but equally incapable of the folly which worships rank and of the democratic envy which professes to despise it, he so bore himself towards them as to avoid, on the one hand, obsequious attention, and, on the other, the assumption of familiarity. It was not often that he afforded even to those who knew him well a glimpse of that inner life within the circle of which must lie the power that, to a great extent, regulates the outward conduct of every one of us, but it was marked by the same genuineness and reality which characterised his whole nature. Though he numbered among his most intimate and highly esteemed friends some who differed from him entirely in their religious opinions, his own convictions were distinct and firmly rooted; they did not need for their support that they should be displayed, and should meet with approval from others; they were kept alive and strengthened by being habitually employed in the regulation of his daily life; and we need not wonder, then, that they enabled

him to watch the approach of death with perfect peace and resignation. In this way—tolerant and lenient in his judgments of others, never seeking opportunities of drawing attention to or justifying his own conduct, but ever careful that it should be such as his conscience would approve—earnest, honest, skilful, kind, never wanting in self-respect, never wanting in respect for others, ever willing to communicate to others the priceless treasures of his own knowledge, ever anxious that others should share with him professional honours and rewards—the lad who had set before him, when he was the apprentice of a village surgeon, the Fellowship of the College of Physicians of London as the utmost object of his ambition, became in turn the colleague of Stokes his great teacher, the President of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, the Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin, Physician to the Queen, and her Majesty's representative in the General Council of Medical Education.

ART. II.—*Reports on Operative Surgery.* By HENRY GRAY CROLY, F.R.C.S.; Senior Surgeon, Teacher of Operative Surgery, and Visiting Clinical Surgeon to the City of Dublin Hospital; Consulting Surgeon to the Monkstown Hospital; Member of Council and late Member of the Court of Surgical Examiners, Royal College of Surgeons, &c.

THE following cases occurred recently in my hospital practice, and being of much interest I consider them worthy of being placed upon record:—

CASE I.—*Right Femoral Hernia; Five Days' Strangulated Gut, deeply Congested; Omentum Gangrenous; Herniotomy, Recovery.*—E. H., married, aged forty-six years, residing at Harold's-cross, was admitted into the City of Dublin Hospital on the evening of the 4th of April last, under my care, on the recommendation of my former apprentice, Dr. Hearn, medical officer to the Rathmines Dispensary. The patient consulted Dr. Hearn for the first time on the day of her admission into the hospital; he at once recognised the very serious nature of the case, and recommended her immediate removal to the hospital.

Previous History.—The woman states that she suffered from the hernia for several years; never wore a truss. The tumour was reducible until the 31st March, on which day the hernia came down, and she was unable to put it back. She was seized with colicky pain, vomiting, and constipation. These symptoms continued, and when visited by Dr. Hearn he found the vomited matter stercoraceous.