

JAMES G. WAKLEY, M.D.

On the morning of Monday last, the 30th ultimo, Dr. James G. Wakley, who for the last five-and-twenty years has had editorial control and management of this Journal, died at his residence, Heathlands Park, Longcross, near Chertsey. About three years since, a small ulcer, induced by the irritation of a jagged tooth, appeared on the left side of the tongue. This ulcer in the course of time assumed an epitheliomatous character, and spreading towards the pharynx ultimately caused death by asphyxia. But, in spite of considerable suffering, Dr. Wakley continued to perform his editorial labours with his accustomed regularity and energy till a few months ago. Even when he was no longer able to bear a railway journey to town his interest in his life-work did not abate. Within two or three days of his death some proofs of articles which appeared in our last issue were submitted to his judgment and discretion. Such manly courage is at least worthy of praise. He knew he was the victim of a fatal malady, but, like a wise and brave man, he strove as far as his physical strength would allow to do the work of this life, while at the same time he humbly sought to prepare himself for the next.

Dr. Wakley was born in Thistle-grove, Brompton, in December, 1825, and was the youngest son of the late Thomas Wakley, M.P., the well-known coroner and politician, and founder of this Journal. His general education was conducted first at a private school at Hanwell, and afterwards at University College School, London; and his professional training was obtained at University College. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1849, and graduated Doctor of Medicine at King's College, Aberdeen, in 1852. He never engaged in medical practice, but at about thirty years of age began under his father's guidance a journalistic career. He was soon entrusted with a large share of editorial responsibility, and about the year 1859, when his father's health began to decline, he became actual, though not nominal, editor. Indeed, a loyal and jealous regard for his father's name and fame made him shrink from assuming the title of editor as long as his father lived. It was not till Mr. Wakley's death in 1862 that he finally took this designation, becoming at the same time half-proprietor of the Journal with his eldest brother, Mr. Thomas H. Wakley, F.R.C.S., who still survives him. It was no light or easy task to follow such an editor as the late Thomas Wakley, but events soon showed that the son was not unworthy to wear the father's mantle. Concrete and tangible proofs of his success as an editor and exponent of professional opinion and aspiration were speedily forthcoming. He not only maintained but extended the reputation which THE LANCET had acquired under its founder's direction for earnestness of purpose, strict integrity, and unselfish zeal for the public good and for the welfare of the best and permanent interests of the medical profession. The last letter which the late Mr. Wakley wrote to his son contained these approving and encouraging words:—

"Your exertions on behalf of the Journal are above all praise. They could not have been greater or more successful.

The gratitude of the whole family is your due, and it will be freely bestowed. Your knowledge of the fact that your labours are so highly appreciated will, I trust, be a lasting source of satisfaction to you. The Journal, I think—thanks to your late great efforts,—was never more prosperous than now: the three numbers which you have sent to me are admirable."

This high opinion was subsequently fully justified by the continued and growing prosperity of THE LANCET, and was endorsed in a significant and agreeable way in an address, which was presented only last week to Dr. Wakley by the present and past members of his editorial staff.

To this address, as the effort to speak produced much suffering, Dr. Wakley wrote the following touching reply, which may be regarded as the latest act of his editorial life:

"Heathlands Park, Longcross, Chertsey.
"August 30, 1886.

"MY DEAR FRIENDS,—On Thursday last, August 26th, Dr. Glover and Dr. Coupland paid me a visit for the purpose of presenting me, in your names, with a very handsome address on vellum, and a number of letters from individual Members of my Staff. No words could express my feelings of gratitude to you for having in such touching terms conveyed your kind and generous sentiments. It is most comforting, in what I feel and know to be my last illness, to learn that my life-long work for THE LANCET has merited and gained your esteem. Thanking you for your tender sympathy and regard, I am yours affectionately,

"JAMES WAKLEY.

"To the Members of the Staff of THE LANCET."

Though from his position Dr. Wakley necessarily played an important part in all matters concerning Medicine in its relations to the State, the public, and the profession, his life was, perhaps, less eventful than that of many lesser personages. It had a twofold aspect. In one he was absorbed in editorial labours; in the other he delighted in such pursuits and pastimes as a rural residence at once invites and supplies.

The editorial life of Dr. Wakley was one of peculiar devotion. He was seldom seen in London save in his editorial room, or on the way between Bedford-street and the Waterloo Station. Few men have met him in society during the quarter of a century that he has laboured so hard. Even his most intimate friends have never been able to detain him in town. The coldest winter night could not deter him from the long railway journey, and the bleak drive and ride across Chobham Common to his lonely but much-loved home at Longcross. This was largely due to his pure love of the country. He was never more at home than in his saddle, or with his gun, or among his dogs, save when he was in his editorial chair receiving one member of his staff after another, or half-a-dozen at a time, with a kind word for each, even if it covered a mild rebuke or a gentle disapproval of something written or proposed. And in this chair he was to be found with great regularity. Other people might take long and distant holidays, but they had no charm for him. He was essentially a journalist, and to make THE LANCET effective he spared no pains night or day, summer or winter. His first care was to make this journal the exponent of the views, scientific or professional, of medical practitioners in every

part of the kingdom and of the empire. Such views might not always be perfect in form or in demonstration, but so long as they came out of honest observation and practical experience, they commended themselves to Dr. Wakley, and a place was found for them in THE LANCET, and for such criticism as they seemed to demand. In his estimation there was no calling like that of Medicine, and no life more useful or honourable than that of the medical man. The scene of the practitioner's labours might be but a village or a thinly populated country, but there was scope enough in such a sphere for every medical virtue. Wherever disease was to be found, and a worthy medical foeman was to be seen in active conflict with it, there was material for the admiration and vindication of Dr. Wakley. For such a practitioner to be underrated or underpaid, for him to be lightly esteemed either by the patients to whom he ministered or the Medical Bodies who had certified his competency to practise, was an injustice which he could not bear. But it was not merely the hard-worked practitioner whose labours and whose hardships excited the interest of Dr. Wakley. He had a keen eye for the men of promise and investigation in the profession. Such men had not to wait for accomplished fame before they attracted his notice. He was quick to see them, and proud to bring them into the service of the Journal which he loved with a filial love. Many a medical man now comfortably removed from professional anxiety, and enjoying the fruits of scientific and literary labour in medicine, will be ready to admit that Dr. Wakley was one of his earliest and kindest friends. One of the great tests of a good editor, indeed, is this eye for men of light and leading, and next to that the faculty of attracting them to himself and to his journal before they become hopelessly absorbed in the distractions of practice and in the pursuit of fame. Judged by these tests Dr. Wakley was an editor alike by inheritance and by nature.

But we should form a very inadequate estimate of the late Editor of THE LANCET if we thought of him as a mere medical man, who could not see anything but the medical profession and its interests. On the contrary, he held that what was best for the public was best for the profession. The whole history of THE LANCET, indeed, shows a far wider view of the uses and functions of a medical paper. Civilisation teems with questions having medical bearings, and which cannot be settled without the assistance of medical science. We need not go further back than the time of Dr. Wakley's editorship to find such questions, or to estimate the uses of a medical paper in settling them. Let us enumerate but a few of them: The duties of the State to the poor, especially the sick poor; to those affected with infectious disease; to the insane: the duty of the State to those needing protection from disease; from employments involving disease; from schools and educational systems of an unhealthy or unnatural kind. Dr. Wakley's interest in such questions was acute, and it never flagged. Those members of his Staff who can recall the energy with which he directed the inquiry into the state of the sick in workhouses, carried out by Anstie, Hart, and others, and the attention with which he followed the disclosure of every miserable defect of nursing, of bedding, of gas, of cubic space, and of food,

and who can compare it with the interest with which he regarded the recent question of School-pressure, will best judge how sustained was his sympathy with all classes who could not help themselves. No class escaped his care or his criticism. He was as ready to investigate complaints against a Public School as those against a Board School; the defects of a palace used by our Royal Family as those of a workhouse bed too short for the projecting limbs of Timothy Daly. And so it came to pass that under his care, as under that of his respected father, a medical journal had no slight importance for the public, who looked to it for guidance in matters of health and happiness. Nor was his interest solely confined to human beings. He was a great lover of animals. Those who remember the cattle plague will recall his great interest in the investigations of Murchison, Gamgee, and others as to its nature and as to the best ways of dealing with such a national calamity. His love of animals led him, on the one hand, to be a stern advocate of carefully regulated vivisection, which has done so much to elucidate their diseases as well as those of man; and, on the other, to disapprove all careless or heartless treatment of the lower animals. Even those forms of sport which involved a very unequal contest between man and the lower animals were always denounced by him in his editorial and personal capacity. His views on the subject of medical legislation are well known, and it is no secret that he was deeply dissatisfied with the recent Act. He was not under the pleasant delusion, which seems to possess some, that the mere concession of direct representation will do everything. His great wish and object was to have procured a one-portal system and a reduction of the rivalry and competition of Examining Bodies. And it was not his fault that less adequate legislation was accepted.

Dr. Wakley's characteristics as an editor were very simple. He made no pretensions to great learning or a deep acquaintance with science. But he had an ample store of common sense, and a power of very quickly and surely gauging professional opinion. When he once formed an opinion he stuck to it with tenacity and courage. He was singularly free from personal or malicious feeling, though strongly tempted thereto occasionally in the conflicts raised by the views and criticisms of the Journal for which he was responsible.

We have spoken of Dr. Wakley's delights in a country life and in country pursuits; but these delights were by no means purely selfish. In the country, too, he enjoyed the luxury of doing good. Many of his acts of benevolence and philanthropy were too constant and far-reaching not to be on men's tongues; but not even his most intimate friends were permitted to see or know of all his generous deeds. The lives of hundreds of poor people in the neighbourhood where he resided have been brightened and their homes made happier by his kindly and discriminating help; and in his death he has not been unmindful of the difficulties and struggles and hardships which might otherwise be in store for many of those whom he aided and cheered during his life.

During the long months in which he calmly and resignedly awaited the approach of death, Dr. Wakley derived much

peace and happiness from the consolations of religion, and from the ministrations of his friend the Rev. Thomas Stirling Coles, M.A., of Chobham.

Some time before his death he made a special request that the following confession of faith should be introduced into any notice of his life which might appear in the pages of THE LANCET:—"Feeling my deep responsibility to God for the position in which, in His providence, He has placed me, I desire to testify to the comfort derived during my sickness from a lively faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that I die in the sure hope of a glorious resurrection."

Dr. Wakley especially wished that it should be known that for a long series of years he was materially aided in anxious editorial work by Mr. Tweedy, by Dr. J. A. Marston, and by Dr. J. G. Glover. With these gentlemen he had for many years been very intimate, entertaining great regard and esteem for them, and having great reliance in the soundness and fairness of their judgment, their scientific and literary ability, and the integrity of their character. He was also anxious that tribute should be borne to the work done by Dr. A. H. Hassall, when THE LANCET exposed the adulteration of the food of the people, and to the long and faithful services of Mr. H. A. Beckett, the present Sub-editor of the Journal. For the last three years the late Dr. Wakley was assisted in his editorial duties by his nephew, Mr. Thomas Wakley, jun.

It would be an omission here not to notice the medical care and kindness which Dr. Wakley met with from his many professional friends during his long illness. The personal attention he received at home from Mr. Barford, of Wokingham, sometimes in the middle of the night, extended over a period of two years. Latterly Mr. Braybrook, a medical student, resided constantly in the house as a companion. And Dr. Angel Money and Mr. Pepper for several months past have gone down on alternate nights to Longcross, quite regardless of their own convenience. Such ministrations in sickness are the luxury of a medical man.

The interment will take place at Chobham Parish Church this day (Saturday), at 3 P.M.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY.

No. III.

DURING the year 1884 there were 66,882 recruits inspected, being 7448 more than in the preceding year; and the number rejected, including 254 found unfit within three months of enlistment, was 27,888, or 417 per 1000. But from this should be deducted 2289 under height, and 717 apparent age not in accordance with general order—both clearly military causes of rejection. Such recruits ought not to have been brought forward for medical inspection, but have been refused by the recruiting parties; this would reduce the ratio of rejections to 372 per 1000. There is a marked difference in the results of the primary examinations conducted by the medical officers and civil medical practitioners, the proportion rejected by the former being 415 per 1000, and by the latter only 177; but to this must be added 226 found unfit on secondary inspection, making a total of 403 per 1000 of the civilian examination. The proportion of recruits furnished by each country was—England and Wales, 753; Ireland, 139; Scotland 97; and the Colonies, 11 per 1000. The highest ratio of rejections was of the Scotch, and the lowest, of the colonial recruits.

The proportion rejected in the different arms of the service ranged between 427 per 1000 for infantry regiments and 350 for the Royal Engineers. Nearly one-fourth of all the rejections was for "under chest measurement," the cause assigned for 102 per 1000 examined; "under weight" was the cause of 60 per 1000, and defective vision of 38 per 1000. One man was rejected for "over height," but no information is given either as to his height or as to the regulation maximum height which he exceeded.

Compared with the results for 1883, the returns show a decrease in the number of recruits under eighteen years of age and in those from nineteen to twenty-two, but a considerable increase in those from eighteen to nineteen—a result which is, we think, to be regretted. The table of the heights shows a decrease in the proportion under 5 ft. 5 in. The chest measurements show a falling off in the numbers above 33 inches and a considerable increase in the proportion between 31 and 33 inches—a result most probably arising from the reduced ages of the recruits. As regards occupation, there has been an increase in the proportion of labourers, servants, husbandmen, &c., and of shopmen and clerks, and a reduction in manufacturing artisans and mechanics. The proportion of well-educated recruits shows a marked increase, while that of men unable to read has fallen to 113 per 1000. There is obviously, however, still a good deal of work to be done by the army schoolmasters. Of the recruits found fit for service, 917 per 1000 bore marks of vaccination and 28 of small-pox, while 53 per 1000 had no satisfactory marks; 32,416 were revaccinated and 914 primarily vaccinated. The beneficial effects of this system of vaccination are shown by the fact that in an aggregate force of 167,686 men scattered over the world, only 121 cases of small-pox and 9 deaths occurred during the year, or about 72 cases and 5·37 deaths in 100,000 men.

In the Appendix to the volume, although the events did not occur in the year under review, there is a report on the medical and surgical transactions of the Suakim expeditionary force, by Deputy Surgeon-General Oliver Barnett, who was principal medical officer. The period included was from March 1st to May 14th, 1885, or seventy-five days. The average strength of non-commissioned officers and men is stated at 7235. The admissions into hospital were 2146; the deaths, including under that term also the missing, 104, which would give an *annual* ratio of 1347 cases and 65·29 deaths per 1000. Of the deaths, 47 were in action and there were 40 returned as missing, the two making an *annual* ratio of 54·61 deaths under this class. The only other important cause of death was enteric fever. There were 88 cases of this disease, of which 11 terminated fatally, being respectively in the *annual* ratio of 55·2 and 6·90 per 1000. Except the death-rate, these are all higher than in the Nile expeditionary force in the preceding year. There are some interesting details given respecting the medical arrangements of the force and the nature of the wounds received in the three principal actions in which the force was engaged. We must content ourselves with noticing only two of the remarks on the general arrangements. The Principal Medical Officer states that, the field hospitals "being non-dieted, field rations were used, cooked according to requirements, and supplemented with medical comforts, such as beef-tea, arrowroot, milk, cocoa, port wine, and anything else the medical officer considered it necessary to obtain from the commissariat stores, which in this campaign were most liberally supplied for the use of the sick. The National Aid Society's stores were therefore superfluous, and in no instance were they required for the use of the sick." The other remark was made by the Surgeon-Major of the Coldstream Guards in medical charge of No. 4 field hospital: "No spirituous liquors have been used during the campaign, and I am of opinion their absence has largely contributed to the efficiency of the troops during the arduous duties performed by them." The report states that 5 officers were killed and 1 missing, 5 were wounded and 1 invalided, but there is no information as to the numbers among whom these casualties occurred. This opinion as to the benefit arising from the absence of the means of intemperance is corroborated by Deputy Surgeon-General Faught in his report of "Medical Transactions with the Bechuanaland Field Force, South Africa," which appears to have enjoyed remarkably