

## OBITUARY—LENNOX BROWNE, F. R. C. S. E.

A great gap is made in the ranks of the onward and upward marching phalanx of the world's laryngologists. He who has fallen was one of the foremost of the living band which threaded their way out of the lowlands of ignorance through the intricate and labyrinthine ways leading to the heights of our present knowledge. He was not of the very first in the field, but it is as true now of all human progress, as in the days of Homer, "one great hero fans another's fire," and Lennox Browne set about the incompleated task of the few who preceded him in his chosen work, and worthily lived up to his mission. Born in 1841, with a heritage of mind, having for his sire, Baker Browne, celebrated in his time as a gynecologist, and for his mother a daughter of the classical and head master of Christ Hospital, John Boyer. Thus was he intellectually created, not made. Previous to adopting his specialty, he had the advantage of a large experience in general medicine under Mr. Hemming, of Kimbolton, to which he ascribed much of his success in his specialty. In 1865 he attached himself to Morrell Mackenzie, the father of British Laryngology, assisting in the clinical and literary work of that master until 1874, when, with several associates, he founded the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, continuing actively upon the staff of that noted institution as its moving spirit, until very recently, when his great services were recognized in an election to the position of consulting surgeon. On the occasion of his fiftieth birthday his colleagues upon the staff further testified their appreciation in the presentation of a testimonial. He was one of the founders of the British Rhinological, Laryngological and Otological Association and one of its early presidents. His interest in its endeavor was manifest in his vigorous participation in its discussions as late as last July, when the malady that was to close his brilliant career had already laid consuming hold of him. Among other positions of distinction held by him may be mentioned that of aural surgeon to the Royal Society of Musicians, surgeon to the Royal Choral Society and consulting surgeon to the Newcastle Throat and Ear Hospital. He succeeded to the favor of the theatrical profession enjoyed by Mackenzie, and it was a pleasure to visit his spacious offices whose walls were well besprinkled with photographic and documentary testimonials of the

esteem he enjoyed of these disciples of certain of the muses. He assisted Mackenzie in the production of his work, "Growths of the Larynx," collaborated with Emil Benke in the writing of "Voice, Song and Speech," but his most pretentious work was his popular treatise on "The Throat and Nose and their Diseases," which is already a classic, and for the unalterable good that it contains will be on the shelves of generations of our successors. His treatise on "Voice, Song and Speech" contains so much of grain that it has run through twenty-one editions, in spite of its too dogmatic advocacy of the vocal methods of the Frenchman, Mandl, whose fierce onslaught on the teachings of the Paris Conservatoire, nearly fifty years ago, revolutionized the vocal methods of that musical city.

Lennox Browne was naturally self-assertive, the outcome of a vast independence and self-reliance. He was oftener right than wrong, but as no observer in an inexact science can be invariably so, he was sometimes wrong, as in his indorsement of the Mandl accentuation on the purely abdominal type of vocal respiration, and in his too pronounced antagonism to the serum treatment of diphtheria, which he opposed in society communications and in his extended monograph, "Diphtheria and its Associates." For this he may be pardoned, seeing "how fast does system follow system" in medicine incident to the itching desire for "fame, that last infirmity of noble minds," whose intellectual acumen is clouded by the shadow of magnified self. Physicians are but human and too often are the best of them, in the egotistic desire to be first, led to indorse procedure and remedy upon insufficient evidences. Lennox Browne's vigorous personality was not made to stand upon middle ground, hence he must be either right or wrong. And from whatever position he fought, it was with all his great faculties, the largeness of which made him a power for truth or its antithesis. Be it said to his credit that the many of his good works live after him, while the few of his errors have passed away.

He was an artist of considerable accomplishment, and he ever bemoaned the fact that he was thwarted in what he considered to be his natural bent. Before he attained to his majority his paintings had been honored with recognition in leading London galleries, and connoisseurs considered him justified in his belief that his greatest fame would have been realized in the pursuit of the ideal. A few years ago he made a trip through South Africa and brought home a series of wonderfully fine sketches entitled "Through Summer Seas." His brush was his relaxation, and he was in the habit of

sketching the scenes of his summer outings. Many beautiful specimens of his art adorn the rooms of his home.

Those who knew the subject of this sketch only as one in authority in his clinics and professional capacity, can hardly judge of his charm in the most sacred precincts of his home, where his imposing presence, intellectual culture and easy manners made him truly delightful as a host and conversationalist. And while we testify to his more materialistic and enduring work for humanity, we indulge the faith that not the least of his achievements for us, his contem-



LENNOX BROWNE.

poraries, is the legacy of his example, the evidence of a great physician, both actualist and idealist, that it is possible to live to the letter the scientific obligation to consider "the meanest flower that blows," and yet now and again to pause from our labor,

"Till old experience do attain,

To something of prophetic strain." FAYETTE C. EWING.