

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

At the spring commencements in Hilary Term, held, according to custom, on Shrove Tuesday in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, the following degrees in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery were conferred by the University Caput in the presence of the Senate:

Baccalaureus in Medicina, et in Arte Obstetricia.—A. O. Eastwood, J. L. Falkner, R. W. Johnston, J. H. Head, A. H. Holmes, J. E. Jameson, M. T. Kelly, E. V. Legge, M. McDonald, T. H. Murphy, G. J. Peacocke, E. H. Shaw, A. E. Taylor, E. H. Townsend.

Baccalaureus in Chirurgia.—A. W. Bate.

Doctores in Medicina.—C. Orpin, R. W. Johnston.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday, February 29th.

The Gresham University.—The Earl of DERBY presented a petition from provincial schools of medicine in England at Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, and Sheffield objecting to the provisions of the proposed charter of the Albert (now Gresham) University for various reasons.

Tuesday, March 1st.

Local Government Repeal Bill.—Lord DENMAN moved the second reading of the Local Government Acts of England and Scotland Repeal Bill.—The motion was negatived without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, February 26th.

Royal Commission on Tuberculosis.—Mr. CHAPLIN, in reply to Mr. FURNESS, said he was informed that the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis held its last meeting on January 28th last, but he might observe that investigations were being carried on, in addition to the taking of evidence at the meetings of the Commission. Minutes of the evidence given before the Commission had been printed for the use of the Commissioners, but the evidence had not been distributed to the public. He did not underestimate the interest with which the report of the Commission was awaited, but he was not in a position at present to state when their investigations were likely to be concluded.

Monday, February 29th.

The Gresham Charter.—Mr. MUNDELLA asked whether, for the convenience of the House, the Government could state whether they would afford sufficient time for the discussion of the Gresham Charter, as one hour before the usual time of closing debate would not be sufficient.—Mr. BALFOUR replied that he had pointed out that this was not a discussion which could be brought to a premature close by the 12 o'clock rule, and although continuance to a late hour might not be agreeable or convenient, still the discussion could go its full term. He could not at the present moment give the right hon. gentleman the time he required.

The Vaccination Act.—Mr. RITCHIE, in reply to Mr. BALLANTINE, said he could not undertake to introduce a Bill for the purpose of suspending prosecutions under the Vaccination Acts until the Report of the Royal Commission had been issued.

Tuesday, March 1st.

Yellow Fever at Santos.—Mr. LAWRENCE asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he was aware that it was reported that the yellow fever at Santos had reached such a height that there was no one left to carry on business, the well being obliged to devote attention to the sick; that the epidemic had been aggravated by the authorities continuing to dredge the port; and whether he had any means of informing the shipping community of the condition of the port, or of otherwise guarding against the risks of British subjects trading in that port.—Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH said he believed the facts as stated were substantially accurate. On February 8th he caused notices to be sent to the press suggesting that, owing to the insanitary condition of Santos, no ships should be chartered for that port.

Movable Dwellings Bill.—Mr. BURT has again taken charge of, and will shortly introduce, the Movable Dwellings Bill of Mr. George Smith of Coalville, to bring the gipsy and van children and their homes under educational and sanitary influences. It has been modified as to the powers of inspection, and strengthened in the clauses relating to the passbooks for the education of the gipsy and van children. The names on the back of the Bill are Mr. Burt, Dr. Cameron, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Elton, Q.C., Mr. Fenwick, Mr. M. Kenny, Mr. John R. Kelly, and Colonel Makins—the same as last year.

OBITUARY.

JAMES ROSS, M.D., F.R.C.P., LL.D.

By the death of Dr. James Ross, Manchester, the medical profession in England has lost one whose name and fame in certain departments of medical science were known throughout the land as well as abroad. James Ross was a native of Scotland, having been born at Kingussie in 1837. He was educated in the parish school of Laggan, Inverness-shire, and also at Edinburgh. He pursued his medical studies at Aberdeen University, where he graduated as M.B. and C.M. with highest honours in 1863, and the degree of M.D. was conferred on him a year later.

After graduating, he settled in the Rossendale Valley and practised for some time in Waterfoot. After thirteen years

of general practice, and after having thus laid a thorough foundation by the acquirement of an all-round grasp of the science and practice of medicine, he came to Manchester in 1876 and began work as a consulting physician, a career which he continued to follow with so much distinction, until he became so well known and esteemed that his services were continually in request in obscure cases of nervous diseases, not only in and around Manchester, but also across the Tweed.

When he first came to Manchester he acted as physician in connection with the Children's Department of the then newly-founded Southern Hospital. He then became pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, a post which he held for some time, and one which enabled him to accumulate an immense number of pathological facts which were afterwards to be woven into his subsequent writings and works. After acting for a number of years as assistant-physician, he became full physician on the staff of the Royal Infirmary, a post which he held until his death. In 1876 he became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and in 1882 he was elected a Fellow.

But Dr. Ross was much more than a physician tending and healing the sick in the hospital wards—more even than a busy, highly-esteemed, and much-sought-after consulting-physician—he was a great instructor of students of medicine in the principles and practice of our art. The immense amount of material in the out-patient rooms and in the wards of the Royal Infirmary not only afforded him a rich field for his own observations, but it also enabled him to impart to the large number of students who followed him in his daily rounds a sound training in the art of observing, studying, and treating disease. The very philosophical and rigid analysis to which he submitted all his observations and any theory based on these was an intellectual discipline of the greatest value to his students.

In 1887 the Council of Owens College honoured itself, as much as it honoured Dr. Ross, by offering him the post of Joint Professor of Medicine in the College. Professor Morgan—who, to the regret of all his colleagues and the profession in Manchester, has been obliged, owing to ill-health, to retire from the Chair of Medicine—was joint Professor along with Dr. Ross.

It is inexpressibly sad to think that of the two joint professors of Medicine in Owens College—Professors Morgan and Ross—both of whom a little over a year ago seemed hearty and well—one has had to resign from ill-health, while the other—considerably his junior in years—has been snatched from his field of usefulness in the full tide of his prosperity, and when his wise, judicious, and friendly council was so highly valued and esteemed by all his colleagues.

Dr. Ross was a great deal more than a specialist; in fact, he was proud of being a physician who had studied widely and deeply the phenomena of disease, and it was only after this foundation had been laid deep and strong that he more especially cultivated that department of disease—disorders of the nervous system—with which his name must indelibly be associated. He was endowed with very active and critical mental faculties, and had been well trained in his *Alma Mater* to apply his vigorous intellect to the solution of philosophical problems; the combination of these qualities with his careful and accurate habits of observation enabled him, even when he was busily engaged in general practice, to produce some works which arrested the attention of the medical profession. It was but natural that, with a mind of such a philosophical bias, his attention should be attracted to such subjects as these: "protoplasm," and "the graft theory of disease"—subjects which were well suited to arouse his analytical faculty. The latter most especially was remarkable for the ingenuity of the theories put forward in it. Dr. Ross's fame will, however, rest on his work as a neurologist. He was not a neurologist merely on the clinical side, but his early pathological experiences enabled him to attack the subject from the side both of pathology and physiology. For many years—during the day carrying on an extensive practice—he collected the material for the work by which he will be best remembered—*Treatise on Diseases of the Nervous System*, published in 1881. It reached a second edition two years later. Although another was demanded, the increasing claims upon Dr. Ross's time prevented him from ever undertaking a third.