

observations from general practitioners. Is not this a subject worthy of "collective investigation"?—I am, etc.,
Manchester, March 5th.
HENRY ASHBY.

OBITUARY.

SIR WILLIAM SCOVELL SAVORY, BART., F.R.S.,
Surgeon Extraordinary to the Queen, Consulting Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Surgeon to Christ's Hospital.

SIR WILLIAM SAVORY died, after a short illness, on the morning of March 4th. The deceased surgeon, Dr. Habershon informs us, had recently been subject to nervous symptoms. On February 21st he consulted that physician, who found him much distressed by the death of Mr. Hulke, and also anxious about his grandson, who had influenza. He was under daily observation, Dr. Pavy as well as Dr. Habershon keeping watch over him. The temperature, carefully taken, was subnormal till the morning of March 1st, when it rose to 100.8°, the patient felt very poorly and there was cough. He was put to bed. Sister John of St. Bartholomew's was summoned to nurse him. By the evening he became restless, and on the morning of March 2nd the temperature was 101°, the pulse steady and a little over 80. After appearing worse on Saturday night, he awoke and felt much better on Sunday morning, March 3rd. In the course of the day signs of cardiac failure set in, but yielded to active stimulation. Early on Monday morning the temperature rose to 103°, and sudden and alarming collapse set in at 4 A.M., with rapid breathing and general intense pulmonary congestion. In spite of remedies Sir William, conscious almost to the last, sunk at 10.20 A.M. "No broncho-pneumonia," said Dr. Habershon, "could be observed from first to last, and the rapid development of the bronchitic symptoms, which were not purely cardiac (for the pulse was never frequent), was rather of the nature of a profound vasomotor paralysis so commonly seen in these fatal cases of influenza. He seemed to have no power of resistance, and was, no doubt, when it attacked him, in the worst possible condition to meet an illness."

Sir William Savory was a native of London, son of Mr. William Henry Savory, a merchant, and was born near Tower Hill in 1826. His professional life was intimately associated with St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he entered as a student in 1843. In 1847 he became a Member of the College of Surgeons, and next year took the degree of M.B.Lond. He then was appointed House Surgeon to Sir William Lawrence, whom he ever afterwards held up as the ideal of a gentleman and a surgeon. Lawrence, on his part, had unbounded confidence in young Savory. In 1852 Savory took the Fellowship of the College, after examination, a few months before Sir Joseph Lister passed, and Dr. Mout, C.B., V.C., was elected Fellow. Savory became Demonstrator of Anatomy to his medical school, and in 1859 was Hunterian Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology at the College. He afterwards held several appointments on the teaching staff at his medical school; he was especially popular as lecturer on the then dry subject of physiology, which he knew how to render interesting; his clinical lectures on surgery were even better. He was a great master of elocution; his delivery was clear and accompanied with graceful gestures, in which the hand and brow took the chief part. He had, before venturing to speak before a class, received instruction from the celebrated West End clergyman, Mr. Bellew, who, as far as eloquence was concerned, was indisputably a model preacher. Savory exceeded his master in oratorical excellence. The handsome intellectual face and commanding figure of the deceased surgeon will long be remembered.

Savory was appointed Assistant Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in April, 1861, and in April, 1867, on the resignation of Mr. Wormald, he became full Surgeon, retiring in November, 1891. As a surgeon Savory was a cautious operator, working equally well with right or left hand, good at diagnosis, and a capital clinical teacher, especially as far as his house-surgeons and dressers were concerned.

After his retirement he continued to take an active interest in many medical questions. The Royal British Nurses'

Association was particularly favoured by him. While still surgeon he had officiated as President of the College when the Queen laid the foundation stone of the Examination Hall. In 1890 he received the honour of a baronetcy.

Savory's long connection with the College of Surgeons began in 1870, when he was elected member of the Court of Examiners. In 1875 he was made one of the first members of the then new Board of Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology. This innovation was a reform preceding the yet greater reform which is known as the Conjoint Scheme. In his views on improving medical education Savory was thoroughly sound, and his share in the good cause will not be forgotten. He was a most searching examiner, and his questions were grouped so that the candidate was tested within a short time over a wide range of knowledge. Each question was delivered in the clear voice with which he uttered his commands or opinions elsewhere than in the examination hall. His test was ever thorough. Eloquence is not always sympathetic, hence Savory as an examiner was dreaded by dunces and by timid men, but he was ever kindly to the latter whenever he perceived their fear, though to the dunce he was designedly sarcastic in speech. He looked upon a random answer or a wilful guess as an act of dishonesty. Whilst he endeavoured to overcome a candidate's nervousness, he abhorred any cowardly request not to be too hard. "I would rather be plucked at once," he observed on one occasion, "than make an appeal *ad misericordiam*." Thus he had no mercy on a candidate who would say, "I have read up everything except what you ask me; kindly examine me in something else. My demonstrator, Mr. Smith, told me yesterday I was the best in his whole class." Such incidents explain some of the unaccountable rejections about which a little fuss is occasionally made. Savory held that gentlemen addicted to whining and to self-pity were not suited for the medical profession. Lastly his firmness, for it cannot be justly called severity, became widely known, and had an excellent effect in stimulating demonstrators and students.

In 1877 Sir William Savory became a member of the Council of the College of Surgeons, and, being re-elected, held his seat till 1893. His strong personality soon made itself felt: he showed his full mental activity, and accordingly obtained a position of great influence in the College councils. Clouds began to gather round the College whilst the deceased was on the Council. In 1885 he became President in due rotation. His attitude at the early and stormier meetings of Fellows and Members about that date was dignified and far more conciliatory than was expected beforehand. Hence his opponents openly expressed their admiration as well as respect for him as chairman. Next year it was clear that a strong man was needed more than ever for President. The reformers had pointed out repeatedly the absurdity of the election of presidents by rotation. It happened that the senior vice-president, a most distinguished surgeon and anatomist, had at the time fallen into that ill-health which was to end fatally. That he could be elected was out of the question. Sir William was re-elected in 1886, and a bad old custom was broken. In 1887 and 1888 he was again re-elected, so fully did the Council rely on his fitness for the post. He never favoured what we understand as reform.

At the annual meeting of the Association at Cork in 1879, Savory delivered the address in surgery. It bore the title The Prevention of Blood Poisoning in the Practice of Surgery. The lecturer did not believe in what was then understood by the expression "strict antiseptic precautions." Further experience has justified many of his opinions and predictions as then enunciated. The spray and other somewhat disagreeable accessories have been discarded. The true basis of the antiseptic triumphs were indicated. "You are not likely to forget," said Savory, "the ghastly sketch Lister drew after his visit to some of the Continental hospitals only four years since." When those words were spoken the improvement had begun; now, sixteen years later, those same foreign hospitals are models of cleanliness. Unfortunately, some of our own are now in need of taking a lesson from abroad. Two years after the address was delivered Savory spoke in the course of a discussion on the statistics of rival ovariologists. "In one point," said he, "all agree. The later do better than the earlier operations. This shows that the superior experience of the man must be taken into

account when he attributes the good results in his statistics to a system which he did not adopt till he was already an expert." All who rely on statistics should bear these words in mind.

In 1887 Sir William delivered the Hunterian Oration. For a discourse of this kind he was particularly fitted, and, as might be expected, it proved a fine display of wisdom and eloquence. One aphorism culled from that oration should be remembered by all doctors, by all scientists, and, above all, by every member of the public who takes the responsibility of writing or speaking on scientific subjects: "Science is never able to accomplish much when held in bondage by the immediate wants of life. Its investigations are successful only when they are pursued with indifference to the uses to which they may be applied."

Savory—an enthusiast in scientific work when young—was not a writer of books. His only publication issued in book form—*On Life and Death*—consisted of four lectures delivered over thirty years since at the Royal Institution. They contain much matter for deep reflection, and may always be read with profit. A few years earlier, in April, 1858, his important scientific paper, An Experimental Inquiry into the Effect upon the Mother of Poisoning the Fœtus, was published. Through experiments on pregnant animals he showed that proof was no longer wanting of the direct and rapid transmission of matter from the fœtus to the mother through the blood in the placenta. Among the earliest of his writings was a monograph On the Development of Striated Muscular Fibre in the Mammalia in the *Philosophical Transactions*, 1855, and, earliest of all, in 1851, a paper On the Valves of the Heart in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

Some of the best of the deceased surgeon's writings appeared in the St. Bartholomew's Hospital *Reports*. His literary style was, when matured, almost, if not quite equal to his eloquence. In the first volume of the *Reports* will be found a valuable monograph On the Local Effects of Blood Poisoning in Relation to Embolism, which threw much light on the pathology of both conditions noted in the title. The author described a series of experiments. Pure water, water containing oxide of zinc powder, and water containing putrid material was injected into the jugular veins of different animals. The result proved that the oxide caused emboli in the lungs through mere mechanical action, whilst the putrid fluid also caused pulmonary emboli. Sterilisation, we cannot forget, was unknown in 1865 when this article was written, but Sir W. Savory's conclusions were substantially correct; he traced the local congestions and suppurations in blood poisoning to stasis, either due to mechanical action or—this "or" is important—to change in the blood produced by the admixture of morbid fluid. He was far too scientific to explain these stases in septic cases by mere mechanical obstruction. In the same *Reports* from time to time appeared some good clinical and statistical papers on pyæmia, thrombosis, phlebitis, and necrosis of bone. About the same period were written two contributions to Holmes's *System of Surgery*, the subjects being Scrofula and Hysteria. The latter in particular contains much clinical material of high excellence.

In 1854 Sir William Savory married a daughter of Mr. W. Borradaile. In 1867 he suffered a very sad loss; having poisoned his finger, the septic process was transmitted to Mrs. Savory, who dressed the injured hand. The infection proved fatal to her, and the disconsolate widower nearly died also. He leaves one son, Borradaile Savory, M.A., Rector since 1887 of St. Bartholomew's the Greater, West Smithfield; on him the title descends. The funeral of Sir William Savory took place on Thursday at Highgate, a service being first held at 1.30 at St. George's, Hanover Square.

DANIEL HACK TUKE, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P.

By the death of Dr. D. Hack Tuke, which took place on March 5th, the profession has lost a great worker. Only those who knew him intimately have any conception of the amount of work which he managed to get through. From the first he took a deep interest in mental disorders and their treatment. His great grandfather, the founder of the York Retreat, was one of the founders of humane treatment of

insanity, and his descendants down to the present have carried on the good work.

Dr. Tuke, who was born at York in 1827, appeared first as an author just forty years ago, and in 1858 his name was associated with that of Bucknill in the large and still valuable *Manual of Psychological Medicine*. Dr. Tuke's first large independent work was on the *Influence of the Mind upon the Body*, later he wrote a very large number of books all having relationship to insanity. He was the great authority on the history of the treatment of insanity in all countries; he also early took an interest in the study of hypnotism and allied states. He always felt that beyond the mere drug treatment of insanity there was a great field open for the moral treatment of the insane. Dr. Tuke made also a special study of moral insanity, and one of his later contributions to medical literature was a description of the first recognition of this by Prichard and Symonds. Some eighteen years ago Dr. Tuke was appointed, with Dr. Savage, editor of the *Journal of Mental Science*, and up to the time of his death he took the leading share in the production of that journal, and more particularly kept its readers accurately informed as to every publication in connection with insanity in whatever country it appeared.

Though Dr. Tuke had been a voluminous writer, yet it was only during the last few years that he had been able to produce his *magnum opus*. In 1892 he produced a *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine* in two large volumes, the whole being brought out with most extraordinary rapidity considering the number and variety of subjects considered and the number of authors, English and foreign, engaged.

Dr. Tuke began the practical part of his professional career at the York Retreat, where he remained for about five years; after this he came to the south of England, and for years lived at Falmouth, his friends and medical advisers fearing lung disease. In 1874 he definitely took a London house in Charlotte Street, and from that time began to take a more active part in London life. At this time he became a governor of Bethlem Royal Hospital, and a few years later was appointed on the committee of that institution, and no one was more regular or helpful in the administration of its affairs. He attended the clinical and pathological work of the hospital most assiduously, and kept records of every patient whom he saw there.

He suffered a severe shock from the early death of his eldest son, a brilliant student of University College Hospital, to whom he had looked to carry on the medical reputation of the Tuke family. Besides public and official work, Dr. Tuke, early in 1880, began to get considerable consulting practice, and in 1885 removed to Welbeck Street, where he died. He took not only an official interest in the *Journal of Mental Science*, but was looked upon as the central figure of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain, and the history and the development of that Association must ever be bound up with the fostering care of Dr. Hack Tuke. He was President of the Association, and by his geniality and weighed sympathies attracted not only the attention of his countrymen but that of foreigners.

Dr. Tuke was a constant attendant at the annual meetings of the British Medical Association and invariably took a prominent part in the discussions of the Section of Psychology. He was also for many years a frequent contributor to the pages of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Probably no name is so well known among alienists the world over as that of Dr. Hack Tuke. In America he had long been recognised as the British leader, and his personal friendship with most of the leading physicians practising in psychiatry was universal. For some years Dr. Hack Tuke had a house at Hanwell and only came to London for professional work, and nearly every foreigner, American or Colonial, interested in mental science made at least one pilgrimage to the house at Hanwell.

No one could have been more kind, sympathetic, and encouraging to the younger members of his profession, no trouble was too great for him if it was to be helpful to another. Though brought up as a member of the Society of Friends, there was a bright geniality and a keen appreciation of a joke which those who knew him fully recognised. He occasionally ventured into lighter paths of literature than those of medicine, and it may be of interest later to have