

Obituary.

WILLIAM HENRY HORROCKS,
M.B.LOND., F.R.C.S.ENG.,

SENIOR HONORARY SURGEON TO THE BRADFORD ROYAL INFIRMARY.

It is with feelings of profound regret that we have to record the death of Mr. W. H. Horrocks of Bradford. Mr. Horrocks had been in the active practice of his profession up to six or seven weeks previous to his decease, and his well-known personality and influence were in such constant evidence in the life of Bradford that it is difficult to realize that they have passed irrevocably out of it. The memory of his skill, of his work for his profession and his sacrifices for the poor will, however, long remain as an inspiration to his successors and a source of happiness to his townsmen.

Mr. W. H. Horrocks was the second son of the late Dr. W. H. Horrocks of Blundellsands, Liverpool, and was born on the 18th of June 1857. He received his medical education at University College, Liverpool; Owens College, and University College, London. He took the Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1882, the Licentiatehip of the Apothecaries Society in 1883, and graduated M.B. of the University of London in 1886, taking Honours in Forensic Medicine, Physiology and Botany. In the latter year he also obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. Shortly after graduating Mr. Horrocks acted for some months as a Junior Resident at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. He always spoke of his residence at the Rotunda as having been of invaluable service to him in his later career. For nearly three years Mr. Horrocks acted as Resident Surgeon to the Northern Hospital, Liverpool—first as Ambulance Surgeon and later on as a House-Surgeon. He then returned to London for one year as Demonstrator of Anatomy at University College. He next received the appointment of House-Surgeon at the Bradford Infirmary, remaining in the city of his adoption from that time until his death on December 5th. Mr. Horrocks was an excellent house-surgeon. His wide and solid surgical education, his keen insight into character, his sympathy with suffering, and his administrative talent all combined to this happy result. He continued in residence at the Infirmary for two years and a half, eventually resigning to take up a partnership in the town with Dr. Rabagliati. In 1891 he was elected Honorary Assistant Surgeon to the Infirmary, and in 1892 he was appointed to the full staff. Mr. Horrocks remained in partnership with Dr. Rabagliati for some years, but eventually it was decided to carry on the work separately. Although in general practice, Mr. Horrocks was called into consultation, especially for operative surgery, by a large number of medical men in Bradford and the surrounding towns and districts.

The Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society has been largely indebted to Mr. Horrocks for the great enthusiasm with which he worked for it. He was an honorary member during the time of his house-surgeoncy at the infirmary, and was elected an ordinary member on resigning that position. Until his death he was a constant attendant at its meetings, reading many papers and exhibiting a large

number of specimens. He was elected President of the Society for 1899-1900, and gave as his presidential address "Sir Astley Cooper—His Life and Times." This excellent and most interesting address was after reprinted in book form and circulated amongst a large number of medical friends.

Mr. Horrocks was greatly interested in the work of the British Medical Association, and was elected Representative in Representative Meetings of the Association at the inaugural meeting of the Bradford Division on May 6th, 1903. He served in this capacity until 1908. He became Vice-Chairman in 1907 and Chairman in 1908, giving, as his introductory address, a paper on "Quacks and Quackery." He also represented the Division on the Yorkshire Branch Council. He read many papers, both on scientific and medico-political subjects, before the Division, and his report on the work of the Representative Meeting was always a feature of the session. Although he considered the Representative Meeting was a most useful and necessary part of the Association, he was somewhat antagonistic to the idea that the Representative Body should be supreme. He considered that the Council should be able, if desired, to veto any resolution of the Representative Body it considered unwise.

In addition to his *Life* of Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Horrocks was also the author of "Medical Notes on the Life of Edward Gibbon." He contributed an article on "Resection of the Intestine for Malignant Disease" to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, afterwards quoted in Jacobson's *Surgery*; also an article on "Porro's Operation and a Suggested Modification" in the same journal; articles on "Atresia Ani Vaginalis" and "Pylorectomy for Carcinoma" to the *Lancet*, and "Gastroplication for Dilatation of the Stomach" to the *Annals of Surgery*. Other articles were contributed to the *Quarterly Medical Journal* and the *Provincial Medical Journal*. Mr. Horrocks was widely read in general literature, and had written papers on "Some Political Opinions of C. E. Fox" and "Political Caricatures." He took an especial interest in old



prints. His knowledge of the latter was very extensive, and his greatest delight was to get an interested friend into his study and read the history of the past through the medium of his prints. His coloured prints were especially beautiful and rare, and he had probably one of the finest collections of old prints of distinguished medical men in the country.

A man of indomitable energy but of somewhat delicate physique, it can be easily understood how his various activities were likely to put a strain on his constitution. This, alas! was the case, and was the immediate cause of his untimely end.

At the service at the Church of St. Paul's there was probably a larger gathering of medical men than had ever been seen in Bradford before. In addition to these were the Lord Mayor and the Vicar of Bradford and a great number of sorrowing relatives, friends, and patients. The people amongst whom he worked went to show their sorrow and mourn their loss. In Mr. Horrocks they had lost a kind friend, a sympathetic adviser, and a great doctor, and his sorrowing wife, his son, and daughter a devoted and loving husband and father.