

gathered round him when he founded the Cambridge scientific school was at its highest pitch; men like Sherrington, Rolleston, Bateson, Shipley, Adami, Henry Head, and Threlfall were of his time, and he was a member of the University Natural Science Club. At Trinity College, and later at University College Hospital, he and Michael Foster were great friends, and so Gordon came very directly under his influence; Langley had recently obtained his fellowship at Trinity, and from him he must have derived still further inspiration. The degree he took in the time of such a scientific galaxy speaks for itself.

Gordon came to Exeter in 1890, and, there being a vacancy for a physician on the hospital staff, he was elected to it. Thus at the early age of 27 he obtained the care of one-third (shortly to become one-half) of the medical beds in a hospital of over 200 beds. As the physicians also had charge of out-patients, he was provided with a large clinical experience at once. Here again his scientific enthusiasm and training were at once apparent. He spent a vast amount of time in the most accurate observation and careful recording of his patients' symptoms. His industry was immense, and the whole of his records were carefully tabulated and scientifically collated. No mean pianist, he had a most accurate ear for music, and it was this that enabled him to obtain the great results which he achieved in percussion. It was this also that led to his accurate observations on the changes in the heart dullness in varying postures; he could detect early lung changes that were lost to others. As a surgeon I am unfit to assess his medical achievements, but we frequently met in doubtful and anxious cases, and I never failed to be impressed by the scrupulous care of his methods and by the accuracy of his conclusions. He was invaluable to me as a medical consultant. His scientific methods led to diagnoses by exclusion that were almost uncanny. I remember a case in which he astonished everyone by diagnosing early spinal caries; there were no physical signs and merely some vague nerve symptoms, but he said: "it couldn't be anything else." He was justified some months later. Outside his professional work he was a great reader of history, and to it he applied his scientific methods. With infinite pains he drew up parallel records of contemporary happenings throughout the world in successive centuries; his highly retentive memory enabled him to keep these synopses in mind, so that when anyone started him on the subject he revealed a wealth of historical information that was truly amazing. It may be recalled that early in 1927 he read a paper before a meeting of the Devon and Exeter Medico-Chirurgical Society reviewing the medical history of twenty-five centuries; this paper was subsequently printed privately, and was welcomed as a most valuable and interesting summary of medical progress by "periods."

I wondered at first at his coming to Exeter; it hardly seemed a big enough sphere for his scholarly attainments, and some time after his arrival I inquired his reasons. He told me of his extremely keen interest in medicine; that the opportunity of getting immediate clinical work attracted him and was not one to be lost; and that if he only succeeded in laying firmly one brick in the edifice of medical knowledge he would have his reward. Who shall say that he has not so laid—well and truly—and that his life's purpose has not been fully realized? There was no guessing about his methods; his conclusions were all the result of most careful observation. For myself, I have lost the last intimate of my own standing, and it is with a sad heart that I write the word *Vale*.

Dr. F. W. BURTON-FANNING (Norwich) writes:

As an old friend of Dr. William Gordon, our friendship going back to student days at Cambridge and at University College Hospital, I welcome an opportunity to send a few lines of appreciation. As a consultant and in the wards of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital his kindness of heart, his sterling character, and his keen intellect soon won him recognition. Thirty years ago Dr. Gordon was convinced that strong rain-bearing winds had an influence on the prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis, and in 1910 he published his work on the subject, which represented an exhaustive and laborious inquiry into phthisis mortality statistics and into the meteorological conditions of Devon-

shire. He had gone so deeply into his thesis that he was fully prepared with vigorous answers to his critics, and his name will always be associated with his particular views on this question. To the last his industry and mental activity were in evidence. In addition to many original contributions to clinical medicine, his fertile brain produced a volume of poems written after the war. A remarkable man has passed, and his friends will remember his warm-heartedness and his many-sided activities.

[The photograph reproduced is by Heath and Bencluce, Exeter.]

We regret to record the death, in his sixty-seventh year, of Dr. HORRON DAVIES, which took place on September 1st at his home in Leicester. Horron Davies received his medical education at Glasgow University, qualifying L.R.C.P. Ed. and L.M. in 1882, and M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1883. Later he graduated M.D. Brux., with honours, in 1886. Having held appointments as house-surgeon to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and for three years as resident medical officer to the Denbighshire Infirmary, he proceeded to build up a general practice in Leicester, where, by his professional skill and friendly personality, he soon made himself popular among all sections of the community. A man with strong political interests and prominent in the Conservative party, Horron Davies closely identified himself with the public life of Leicester, becoming a member of the city council in 1889 and a justice of the peace in 1903. In association with the late Sir John Rolleston he was responsible for the creation of the Leicester Poor Boys and Girls' Summer Camp, and in many other ways was active in social, political, and philanthropic work. Davies was a keen member of the British Medical Association, and vice-president of the Midland Branch; when, in 1905, the British Medical Association held its annual meeting in Leicester, he took a prominent part in the work of organization. In the same year he was asked to become mayor of Leicester, an honour which he reluctantly found himself unable to accept. During the great war he was major in the R.A.M.C., and served at the base hospital, Leicester. Horron Davies contributed a number of papers to the medical journals, among them "Gangrene of distal parts following erysipelas" (*British Medical Journal*, 1892); "The practical working of the Leicester system" (*Lancet*, 1893); "Reinsertion of teeth, with cases" (*Quarterly Medical Journal*, 1893). He is survived by a widow and one son.

Dr. WALTER ANSON SMITH of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, news of whose death, at the age of 72, has reached this country, graduated M.D. in the University of Vermont in 1882. After practising in several towns he settled at Springfield in 1894, where he continued his practice until 1922. He was one of the founders of the Mercy Hospital, which he served as a member of the medical staff, and subsequently as consultant, until ten years ago. He also took a prominent part in the foundation of the Springfield Academy of Medicine, of which he was at one time president. During a period he spent in England in post-graduate study at Birmingham, under the late Lawson Tait, he joined the British Medical Association and retained his membership until his death. In 1905 he was appointed surgeon, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, in the First Brigade of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, and in October, 1907, when the militia came under national control, he became a major in the medical department. He is survived by a widow and one son.

The death took place, on September 28th, in a nursing home at Aberdeen, of Dr. PETER MITCHELL, who for many years had been a well-known practitioner in that city. Dr. Mitchell was born in 1864 at Inverarn, Banffshire, and graduated M.B., C.M. at Aberdeen in 1894; he proceeded M.D. four years later. After practising for a short time at Newtonhill, Kincardineshire, he took up work in the East End of Aberdeen, where he conducted a large practice for some thirty years. Having joined the 5th Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders as a surgeon lieutenant in 1898, he was afterwards transferred to the