

## OBITUARY.

WILLIAM STRANGE, M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Vice-President of the British Medical Association.

THE death of Dr. Strange removes from the ranks of the Association one of its oldest and most respected members, and widens the gap in the Council of the Association which has been caused by the decease during the last year of so many of its most valued and beloved veterans. He has gone over to the majority to join the ranks so lately swelled by the deaths of de Bartolomé and Waters, whose life-long friend and colleague he had been in the Council, and who had, like him, filled the office of President, and had permanently become Vice-President. Dr. Strange was not less earnest than any of his colleagues and predecessors in the punctual fulfilment of the duties of his office, and during the long series of years in which he held high place in the Councils of the Association, he readily imposed upon himself the sacrifices necessary for the diligent attendance on the quarterly Committees and Councils of the Association. He took a very lively interest in all its affairs, and was to the last active in thought and suggestion. Quite recently we had from him a valuable memorandum on the subject of the duties, sphere, and engagements of medical officers of health, a subject which had been commended to the notice of the Parliamentary Bills Committee by the Section of Public Health at the last annual meeting of the Association. It was a subject with which Dr. Strange had a long acquaintance, due to the experience gained in his post of medical officer of health for his own district, and as a friend and colleague of the late Dr. Rumsey, of Cheltenham, in the long inquiries and labours which the Public Health Committee of the Association carried on for many years, with the help of many distinguished men, such as Acland, Rumsey, A. P. Stewart, Sibson, and Farr: and of the Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. Those labours resulted in the appointment of the Royal Sanitary Commission, and the enactment of the Public Health Act, and all that has followed, so that Strange may long be remembered as one of the working pioneers in sanitary science and administration, and one who aided the Association in what was, perhaps, its greatest and most far-reaching achievement for the public good.

Dr. Strange was born at Shapstone, in Buckinghamshire, but his family removed, and his early years were passed at Ashwell House, Brackley, Northamptonshire. He went through his medical studies at Edinburgh as a contemporary of W. B. Carpenter, Hughes Bennett, and Edward Forbes; his friendship with these distinguished men greatly influenced the ardour and bent of his studies; for in Paris, also, where he subsequently went to study under Andral, Chomel, and Magendie, he was able to maintain and renew the association.

On entering medical life he became interested in questions of public health, and made official investigations in Lancashire, and gave important evidence before the Health of Towns Commission. In 1846 he published "An Address to the Middle and Working Classes as to Prevention of Excessive Sickness and Mortality in the Large Towns." At that time, however, public medicine hardly offered a career; and such posts as existed were few and far between. He began private practice at Bridgnorth, in Shropshire, but removed, in 1854, to Worcester, becoming Physician to the Worcester Infirmary in 1876, in the place of Sir Charles Hastings, resigned. To this institution he continued for nearly thirty-one years to render valuable services; at the time of his death he was, and had long been, senior physician. He was also honorary consulting physician to the Worcester Dispensary, the City and County Orphan Asylum, and the prison; and was the active adviser and one of the founders of the City and County Nursing Institution.

In 1872 he was appointed Medical Officer of the city and subsequently of the rural authority of Worcester, an appointment which he held at the time of his death. He was not only officially able and active, but he addressed himself to the diffusion of knowledge of the laws of life and of the prevention of adult and infant mortality (which at one

time rose to a great height in Worcester) by various useful organisations. His solicitude for the health and welfare of the community led him to take an active interest in the establishment of open spaces, and in the creation of a system of public kitchens for the poor.

Dr. Strange took a most active and leading part in the formation of the Worcestershire Medical Society, of which he had been Honorary Secretary and Librarian since its formation and the gift of Sir Charles Hastings' library. When it was proposed that the British Medical Association should celebrate its jubilee annual meeting in 1882 in Worcester, the place of its birth, Dr. Strange was nominated by the voice of his associates and colleagues in the district as the President of the year, and was elected by the Council to that office. He fulfilled the duties with vigour, unflinching interest in the work, and great courtesy and hospitality. It was in all respects a highly successful and very memorable occasion. In his address he paid a due tribute to the memory of the founder, Sir Charles Hastings, as a Worcestershire worthy and a benefactor of his profession; and disclosed those interests in public health and collateral literary pursuits which were congenial to his character.

The subjects of medical interest which chiefly engaged his attention were "Infantile Mortality," "The Etiology of Enteric Fever," "The Sources of Health," etc., and his writings are chiefly to be found in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, the *Medical Times and Gazette*, the *Sanitary Record*, and in some of the popular periodicals and magazines.

To the last he took a keen interest in the affairs of the day. In addition to the manuscript memorandum, of which we have spoken, addressed to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, he had, only a few days before his death, published a letter, with the signature of X., on "Unconscious Cerebration," and had paid a visit, as usual, to his hospital wards. The cause of death was angina. He was attended in his last illness by his friends and neighbours, Dr. Crowe and Dr. Read.

A man of religious conviction; of much intellectual freshness and energy; trusted and respected as a consultant by his professional brethren; active and earnest in the performance of public duties; eager to promote the best interests of his profession; much attached to the Association, and a constant attendant at its meetings. Dr. Strange passed a busy career with credit and usefulness, and was rewarded by his due sense of duty well done and by a large tribute of affection and respect.

H. O. THOMAS, M.R.C.S., M.D. (Hon. Causa), ST. LOUIS.  
THE death of Mr. H. O. Thomas, briefly noticed in our last issue, has removed from the profession one who has left a permanent mark on the history of surgery.

He was a native of Anglesea, and was born in 1833. His father, the late Mr. Evan Thomas, was a well-known bone-setter, who practised with singular success in Great Crosshall Street, and acquired a wide reputation with the public. From his father, however, he inherited nothing but his name and his mechanical genius, and his practice and success were the result of his own industry and talent. He was the eldest of five brothers, all of whom entered the medical profession. He studied at University College, London, at the University of Edinburgh, and in Paris, and obtained the M.R.C.S. in 1857. Three years later he commenced practice in Liverpool, and shortly afterwards married. His natural bent was towards surgery. He was fond of detail, and always prepared his own dressings and appliances. He was never on the staff of a hospital, but on Sunday mornings was accustomed to see at his own house a crowd of gratuitous patients who came to him from all parts of the town and from the neighbouring parts of Lancashire and Cheshire.

It is worthy of remark, at a time when experimenters seem to show somewhat undue haste in bringing their discoveries to the light of day, that Mr. Thomas had been using and perfecting his splints for nearly twenty years before he published them to the profession. This was certainly not due to any desire on his part to court secrecy for his discoveries, as he constantly showed them to his professional friends, but it was rather due to his innate modesty, and to the fact that for many years those of his brother practitioners to whom the splints were shown failed to perceive their value. About the

year 1875 he formed the acquaintance of Mr. Rushton Parker, now Professor of Surgery in University College, Liverpool, who was then surgeon to the Stanley Hospital, and showed him his splints, saying that he had for a long time found them very useful, but that none of those to whom he had shown them had paid them much attention. Mr. Parker believing that the splints were a new departure in surgery, urged on Mr. Thomas the desirability of making them known, both for the sake of humanity and for his own reputation. Accordingly, in 1875 appeared a small work from the pen of Mr. Thomas, entitled "Diseases of the Hip, Knee, and Ankle-joints," and figuring for the first time the splints that bear his name. They were favourably received at University Hospital in London, and Mr. Erichsen included a description of them in the seventh edition of his *Surgery*, published in 1877. Henceforth their recognition spread rapidly, and they were soon adopted generally by the profession. His method of wiring the fragments in fracture of the lower jaw had been noticed by Mr. Bryant some years before.

Deeply engrossed as Mr. Thomas was in carrying on a large and arduous practice, his interests were by no means limited to his profession. He was warmly attached to literature, and was an enthusiastic student of archaeology. His house was adorned with valuable works of art, and he had collected an extensive library, some of his volumes on archaeology being especially choice. It may safely be said that those who knew him best, loved him best; but the most engaging aspects of his character were only revealed to those who were privileged to enter his family life. He had a love, almost a passion, for music, and spent much of the limited time he could give to the domestic circle in playing on the flute. He had a great fondness for children, and loved to snatch a moment from his almost constant round of labour to enjoy a few minutes' romp with them. He had exceptional control over himself; one who knew him well affirms he never saw him lose his temper, though when occasion arose, he never hesitated to express his indignation. He never nursed a grievance, and could not perform a spiteful act. He was full of anecdote, and revelled in humour. Most of his writings—and they are fairly voluminous—were composed after 10 o'clock at night, after a day of ceaseless work. He had just completed his advertised list of works when his fatal illness struck him down, and he was about to engage in the composition of a work on Orthopædics conjointly with his nephew, Mr. Robert Jones. His last published contribution was a paper "On the Action of Drugs on the Iris and Ciliary Muscle," which appeared in the *Provincial Medical Journal* for January in the present year.

His appearance was striking, and once seen he was not easily forgotten. Seated on a high four-wheeled gig, his exceedingly slight figure encased in a dark blue coat buttoned high in the neck, with naval cap, and smoking the constant cigarette, he might be seen driving about at all hours of the day, frequently accompanied by his wife. He seldom walked except the shortest distances, and his habit of relying on conveyances seems to have led to the chill that ushered in his fatal illness. On the Wednesday before his death he was visiting a patient at Warrington, and on leaving the house found there was no car at hand and started off to walk to the station. Fearing he would be late he hurried, perspired, and subsequently caught a chill. Soon afterwards pneumonia set in, and in spite of the most attentive care he sank on Tuesday the January 6th. He was attended by his friend Dr. William Carter, and his nephew, Mr. Robert Jones, was constantly by his bedside. He was 57 years of age, and leaves a widow, but no children.

Some time ago the University of St. Louis conferred the honorary degree of M.D. on him, at the same time with Professor Bergmann.

#### THOMAS FARQUHAR, M.D.

THE death of Dr. Thomas Farquhar, of the Indian service, of which the announcement appears in the *Times*, will be learned with regret by a large circle of Indian and other friends. In his early service he was, it is stated, a member of the Punjabee force; and, in charge of the Guide Corps, he joined the Yusufzai frontier campaign, and was present at the engagements of Chilianwalla and Goojerat. He rendered signal ser-

vice in the outbreak of cholera at Agra in 1856; and in the following year, during the Mutiny, was conspicuous for his brave attitude and devoted labours among those beleagued for many months in the fort of Agra; he also took part in the action fought under its walls on July 5th, 1857. Lord Lawrence appointed him his body surgeon, which office Dr. Farquhar held throughout his viceroyalty. In all these posts, by his singular devotion to the interests of those about him and generous nobility of character, Dr. Farquhar secured the love and friendship of all who knew him. He lived latterly at Aberdeen, where his loss as a philanthropist will be greatly felt.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

A HANDSOME brass lectern has been presented to St. Thomas's Hospital Chapel by the new Treasurer, Mr. J. G. Wainwright.

COLONEL CHARLES SUTHERLAND, M.D., has been appointed Surgeon-General of the United States Army by the President, in succession to Dr. J. H. Baxter, whose death we recently announced.

THE Royal Meteorological Society will hold an exhibition of rain gauges, evaporation gauges, percolation gauges, and similar instruments at 25, Great George Street, Westminster, from March 17th to 20th.

THE late Dr. Thomas Rhodes Armitage, of 33, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, who died at Cashel, Tipperary, on October 23rd, 1890, and was well known for his benefactions to the blind, leaves personal estate valued at £217,420.

AT the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Society of the Friends of Science in Posen the Medical Section elected Professor Koch, Sir Joseph Lister, and M. Pasteur honorary members.

HYGIENE FOR WOMEN.—The examination for the certificate of the National Health Society will take place on January 20th, at 53, Berners Street. This is a special examination for the 500 ladies who have lately attended Dr. Schofield's courses on "Domestic and Personal Hygiene."

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.—The advertisement in our issue of January 3rd, relating to the Dental Hospital of London, should read that 5 Assistant Dental Surgeons are required, and not 5 Dental Surgeons as printed. A corrected advertisement appears in this week's issue.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CORK.—Amateur theatricals in aid of the funds of this institution were held last week in the Imperial Hotel, Cork. A comedietta entitled *Breaking the Ice* and Theyre Smith's comedy *Uncle's Will* were creditably performed, and were fairly attended.

THE Ceylon Government have appointed Dr. J. D. Macdonald, Physician and Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital, Colombo, and Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, Ceylon Medical College, to proceed to Berlin to study the treatment of phthisis as practised by Professor Koch.

INFLUENZA IN CENTRAL AFRICA.—Consul John Buchanan, C.M.G., writing on October 11th from Mount Zomba upon the Shiré Highlands of Central Africa (our new protectorate), reports a severe epidemic of influenza there. "A good many people," he says, "have died, both young and old. Most of the Europeans at Blantyre have had it in a more or less severe form."

MORISON'S PRIZES FOR LUNACY ATTENDANTS.—The Council of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, on the recommendation of Dr. T. S. Clouston, Morison Lecturer for the year, has awarded the prizes, left by the late Sir Alexander Morison, a former president of the College, for meritorious attendance on the insane, to Mary Ann Anderson, Midlothian and Peebles Asylum, eleven years' service, and to David Robertson, Murray Royal Asylum, Perth, thirty years' service.

FEVER IN LONDON IN 1890.—The returns as to fever patients in London which were laid before the Metropolitan Asylums Board on January 10th shows a satisfactory diminution in the