

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