

confidence, and brought cheer where he could not bring healing. He was no alarmist to magnify the minor ailments, and he used humorously to say that some of his patients refused to send for him because all he did for them was to put them to bed.

From his student days he retained his connexion with the University, serving it as Lecturer, Examiner, Assessor, and Representative on the General Medical Council, and took a keen interest in all connected with medical education and university work. To these he brought a business capacity, energy, and an intimate knowledge of the requirements of the times that were invaluable in shaping the future of medical education. He was Examiner in Medicine from 1869 to 1872. In 1839 he was elected one of the Assessors of the University Court, which office he held unopposed until last year. He was appointed University Representative to the General Medical Council in 1892, and was Convener of the Finance Committee, taking an active part in the University extension. In 1901 the University showed its appreciation of his services by conferring on him the degree of LL.D.

In politics Dr. Fraser was an advanced Liberal. He served for several years as Chairman of St. Nicholas Ward Committee, and was Chairman of the Aberdeen Liberal Association when the split in the Liberal Party occurred over Home Rule. He was an ideal chairman, and turbulent spirits felt that a strong hand grasped the reins. He was active in securing the return to Parliament of his friend, the Right Honourable James Bryce, with whom, and with Mrs. Bryce, Dr. Fraser had a warm friendship. His politics, unfortunately, formed a bar to his obtaining the Chair of Medicine in the University after the death of Dr. Smith Shand, as somewhat ungenerously a section of his political opponents strenuously opposed what would have been a most popular and well-deserved appointment and a generous acknowledgement of the merits of an opponent. This disappointment did not embitter Dr. Fraser in the least, nor turn him aside from his work. His Liberalism increased with his years, and only a few weeks before his death he remarked to the writer how much he was in sympathy with many proposals of the present time that were regarded as socialistic and extreme, and his belief that they would become commonplaces in the politics of the next generation.

Dr. Fraser was Physician to the Aberdeen Deaf and Dumb Institution, Medical Officer of the Aberdeen Post Office Staff, and Certifying Surgeon for the Factories. For twenty-eight years he was connected with the Volunteer movement, and on his retirement held the office of Brigade Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel in the 1st Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders.

Dr. Fraser was unmarried, and is survived by his sister, Mrs. Adamson, widow of the late Rev. T. N. Adamson, Barnhill, Broughty Ferry.

One who was closely associated with Dr. Fraser writes:

Although Dr. Angus Fraser had been living in retirement for the past three years or so, still the news of his death gave rise to the feeling of personal loss to very many, to whom his figure had been so familiar during the long period of his professional life as physician, or with whom he had been actively engaged in the administration of public institutions or in political matters. His was a personality which made itself felt in whatever sphere of action he was for the time being employed, and which showed itself, perhaps, most happily when he was in his hospital wards.

As a clinical teacher he had a high and well-deserved reputation amongst his colleagues and his students, and many of the latter, now scattered far and wide, have ever eagerly given testimony to his powers of exposition. He was accurate in diagnosis, clear and neat-handed in demonstration, ready to try with an open mind all new instruments of precision, possessed of a wonderfully accurate memory of methods and of cases. From his early undergraduate days onwards he showed special interest in chemistry, which for a period he taught in the university during the absence of the professor, and he was always ready to employ his knowledge in the clinical observation of complex cases involving accurate urinary analysis, which was a field he had made peculiarly his own. Furthermore, in the early days of pathology as an exact science he succeeded in making himself familiar with

section cutting and staining, and became an expert microscopist; so that the establishment of a Chair of Pathology in the university was welcomed by him, and he became a member of the first class taught by the late Professor Hamilton, although by that time he was busily engaged in the practice of his profession and had charge of wards in the hospital.

His ability was early recognized by his teachers, and the late Dr. Kilgour, whose name is still familiar amongst us as a master of medicine, showed him especial favour, so that in the course of time Dr. Fraser became the natural successor to his practice, and very soon attained a wide reputation as a consultant in the North of Scotland.

While thus busily employed in teaching and in his private work he found his relaxation, for the most part, in his library, which on the medical side was remarkably extensive, being drawn from English, American, and French sources, and in the lightest of current literature, a taste for which he shared with at least one very well-known *littérateur* whose views on the subject are well known to many.

He was interested in all the new devices which could be turned to account in his teaching, and, indeed, in all things of modern mechanical type, from stethoscopes to typewriters, lithographing and printing outfits, gramophones, and motor cars, of which he always had the latest approved models. So also in his reading, though by no means unmindful of the classic clinical teachers for whom he had the greatest reverence combined with an accurate knowledge of their writings, new editions immediately on their publication replaced the older ones, were carefully but rapidly read, and the true as well as the new critically examined and retained for use.

He was essentially of the town, and took his holidays—which in late years became infrequent—for the most part in London and Paris, where he haunted bookshops and instrument makers, to return home eager to test some new acquisition in his wards or in his book-room.

When his health made it imperative for him to give up his work, the parting with his hospital duties gave him the sorest pain, and very soon thereafter he confessed that the sight of new medical publications had become almost unbearable seeing that they were no longer to be of practical value to him. Still to the very end his table and even his bed was littered with medical journals, book catalogues, and works of reference, of which he had a marvellous assortment.

During his active life he was an enthusiastic member of the various medical societies of the city and district, where his genial criticism was a distinct feature of the meetings, while his presence was always welcome at the annual dinners.

Dr. Fraser's advice in all matters of difficulty was always at the service of his professional brethren and friends, by whom it was greatly valued, and in this respect as in many others his loss will be severely felt.

WILLIAM HENRY FOLKER, F.R.C.S.ENG.,

CONSULTING SURGEON, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE INFIRMARY.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. W. H. Folker, F.R.C.S.Eng., which took place at his residence, Bedford House, Hanley, Staffs., on March 26th, in his 86th year. The end was not unexpected, as he had lapsed into complete invalidism for the last three years.

Mr. Folker was born at Brighton in 1826, and was educated at New College School, Oxford, under George Valentine Cox, M.A. Subsequently he was apprenticed, as was then necessary, to James Fernandez Clarke, who was then on the staff of the *Lancet*; he became a student at Charing Cross Hospital, where he gained several prizes, including the final silver medal for clinical work. He also studied in Paris under Trousdale, Velpeau, Nélaton, Malgaigne, Ricord, and Dubois.

In 1851 he took the diploma of M.R.C.S.Eng., and in 1853 was elected House-Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, which post he resigned three years later in order to begin general practice in Hanley. But his dissociation from the hospital was not of long duration, for in 1858 he was elected to the visiting staff as Honorary Surgeon, and held that office until 1890. From that date until 1892 he undertook the duties of Surgeon to the newly-formed Ophthalmic Department, and then retired as

Consulting Surgeon. His active interest in the hospital was, however, well maintained, and as Vice-President in 1904-5 and as President in 1906 he threw himself into administrative work. In 1899 he had given the first impulse to the movement for the erection of the King Edward VII Nurses' Home, and saw his project realized three years later in the fine building wherein the hospital nursing staff are at present accommodated.

Mr. Folker gained the diploma of F.R.C.S.Eng. in 1864. He was one of the first batch of certifying surgeons appointed by the Home Office under the Factory Act, and held his post until a few years ago, when he resigned, and was succeeded by his son.

His year of presidency of the Staffordshire Branch of the British Medical Association was signalized by a remarkable address on the Surgery of the Extremities, in which he compared the results of the many changes and advances in technique with which he had been personally associated. He also contributed occasional papers to the medical journals, mainly in connexion with his own modifications of the operations for the cure of haemorrhoids and varicose veins, which involved the specially devised instruments now bearing his name.

He was an enthusiastic member of the volunteer service, having joined it in 1859. His appointment as Battalion Surgeon to the 1st Battalion Staff Volunteer Rifles followed in 1860. He was decorated for long service, and retired in 1886.

He was a sound, but not militant, Conservative in politics, and a Past Master of the Sutherland Lodge of Freemasons, 451, and held provincial rank in the Godefrroi de Bouillon Preceptory.

During his long life in North Staffordshire Mr. Folker had endeared himself to a wide circle of friends, whose esteem found notable expression in a dinner given in his honour in 1903 to celebrate the jubilee of his connexion with the North Staffordshire Infirmary. A placid geniality of disposition, an unswerving steadfastness in friendship, and an invincible optimism were his main characteristics, and this combination of qualities inspired him to a well-nigh perpetual youth. The younger members of his profession were instinctively aware of his kindly attitude toward them; and when, at their frequent invitation, he dispensed the ripened advice of a senior, he displayed at the same time the generous and comprehending sympathies of a contemporary.

Mr. Folker married in 1857 Ellen Jane, daughter of the late George Henry Fourdrinier, the celebrated paper maker, and leaves four children living, the eldest son being at the present time Ophthalmic Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary.

EVAN ROBERTS, M.D.BRUX., M.R.C.S.ENG., ETC.,

PENYGOES, N. WALES.

DR. EVAN ROBERTS, one of the oldest members of the profession in the Principality, passed away on Tuesday, March 19th, in his 83rd year.

He was born at Dolbenmaen, Carnarvonshire, in 1829, and was apprenticed to Mr. Rowland Williams of Tremadoc, a surgeon of very considerable repute, who, although he died at a comparatively early age, gave three men such a start in life that they all became in their day leading practitioners in Carnarvonshire; by the death of Dr. Evan Roberts the last of the good old school has gone.

Having completed his apprenticeship he became a student at Anderson's College, Glasgow, and after a successful career took the diplomas of M.R.C.S.Eng. in 1856 and that of L.R.C.P.Edin. in 1859 and the M.D. of Brussels in 1878. In the latter part of 1856 he settled down in the Nantlle Vale, was appointed Surgeon to the Nantlle Vale Quarries and Copper Works, and soon acquired a very large and extensive practice. Blessed with a strong constitution, active, and full of energy, he for thirty-five years worked very hard, in fact very few men have ever worked harder. Being particularly fond of riding, in his early years he did most of his work on horseback; he was reckoned to be one of the best cross-country riders, and as a rule made short cuts to visit his patients.

Although a very busy man he found time to do a large

amount of public work, and served on many public bodies. More particularly he did much for education in the district, and was for many years Chairman of the local School Board.

Of a very kind and sympathetic disposition with a strong vein of good humour, he did an enormous amount of charitable work. He was the friend and adviser of the whole countryside, the widow and the orphan found in him a wise and sympathetic counsellor, and he himself was never happier than when doing a good turn to others.

His tales of the conditions of practice in the late Forties and early Fifties, his experiences of the pre-chloroform days, and his account of his own, often thrilling, adventures on the Welsh hills, made him an intensely interesting companion. Dr. Roberts was an ideal country practitioner. He knew the history of every man, woman, and child in his district, he loved his profession, and was ever jealous of its honour and best traditions. Close on twenty years ago he practically retired and only saw some of his oldest patients, but he never could be idle; he found interest in other pursuits, more especially farming. He was a great reader, and his store of general knowledge was quite remarkable. Some few years back he became very deaf, and his books afterwards were more than ever his companions. Although the loss of his hearing was a great misfortune for a man of such active tendencies, yet he never lost his usual brightness, and he enjoyed life to the end. Even at his great age he was alive to the modern discoveries in medicine and surgery, and up to a month before his death regularly read the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

He always had a great fondness for animals; his horses and his dogs were his pets, and it was a familiar sight to see the "old doctor," as he was called, driving in his pony trap with a little Aberdeen terrier sitting by his side.

In 1861 he married Mary, the daughter of the late Mr. Hugh Jones of Coedmadoc, and in May of last year they celebrated their golden wedding.

He was buried in the family vault at St. Rhedyw's Parish Church, Llanllyfni, on Saturday, March 23rd, and the immense funeral—the cortage being nearly a mile long—testified that no ordinary man was being laid to rest that day, for the whole country around had come to pay their last tribute of respect to one who had devoted his life to the welfare of the Nantlle Va'e for over fifty years.

Dr. Roberts leaves a widow, a daughter, and four sons. Two of his sons, Dr. H. Jones Roberts and Dr. E. Sheehan Roberts, succeeded to his practice.

THE death is announced of Dr. EDWARD DIVERS, F.R.S., at the age of 75. He was educated at the City of London School, the Royal College of Chemistry, and Queen's College, Galway, from which he took the degree of M.D. In 1870 he was appointed Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, but in 1873 went to Japan as Professor of Chemistry in the Imperial College of Engineering. In 1882 he became Principal of the College, and on his retirement was made Emeritus Professor of Chemistry in the Imperial University, Tokyo. He was President of the Section of Chemistry of the British Association in 1902, and of the Society of Chemical Industry in 1905.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are Professor Albert Schütze, head of the Bacteriological Institute of the Moabit Hospital, Berlin, who had gone on the Tripoli Expedition as a member of the German Red Cross Society, and succumbed to typhoid fever at the Turkish head quarters at Gharian, aged 40; Dr. E. Windels, of Berlin, a member of the Business Committee of the German Medical Union, aged 63; Dr. E. G. A. Landergrén, Lecturer on Physiology in the Medical Faculty of Stockholm; Dr. F. Zachrisson, Lecturer on Surgery in the University of Upsala; Dr. Federico Oloriz y Aguilera, Professor of Descriptive Anatomy in the University of Madrid; and Dr. Leonard Weber, Emeritus Professor of General Medicine in the New York Post-graduate School, formerly President of St. Mark's Hospital.