

OBITUARY.

JOHN HALL, M.R.C.S.,
Sheffield.

MR. JOHN HALL, who had been in failing health for some time, passed away on September 10th, in his 78th year.

He was born at Greasboro', near Rotherham, of which place his father, the late Rev. Francis Hall, was the vicar. He was one of a large family, and was himself the third and last-surviving son. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, and later entered the Sheffield Medical School. After obtaining the diplomas of M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.S.A., he became Assistant, and afterwards House-Surgeon at the General (now Royal) Infirmary. On leaving this institution he started private practice in partnership with late Mr. Edward Martin, and was a most successful practitioner. For many years he was surgeon to the Post Office.

For some time past, owing to failing health and advancing years, his active connexion with the profession had ceased. He leaves a widow, a daughter, and two sons. Of the latter, Mr. T. Walter Hall is a well-known solicitor, and the other, Dr. Arthur Hall, is physician to Sheffield Royal Hospital.

Mr. Hall was held in high esteem by his professional brethren, an esteem which his long and honourable career had justly earned, and among his patients he counted many life-long friends.

His death is another link gone with the past. All associated with the Royal Infirmary on the medical staff and Board of Management at the time he was House-Surgeon have long since passed away. The old order has given place to new, and it is interesting to recall that the in-patients at that time numbered less than 1,000 annually, against nearly 4,000 last year; and whereas the operations in one year about that time were returned as 33, the last year's record reached a total of 2,800.

FARQUHAR MATHESON, M.B., C.M.

THE death of Dr. Farquhar Matheson, of Soho Square, at the end of last month, removes one of the most prominent personalities in the Scottish strongholds of London. He was a cadet of an old Highland family, and was born at Dornie, Kintail, in Ross-shire, in 1840; he studied medicine both in Glasgow university and in that of Aberdeen. In 1868 he graduated M.B., C.M. at the latter, and after spending a couple of years in the tenure of various appointments he took up his residence in London, and remained in practice there up to the time of his death. He turned to ear and throat work early in his career, and having studied the subject under Dr. Harvey at the Royal Ear Hospital in Dean Street, Soho, he was eventually elected Surgeon to that institution, and continued to perform the duties of the office until quite recently. Other professional appointments which he held were those of Honorary Aural Surgeon to the Royal Caledonian Asylum, Honorary Surgeon to the Scottish Hospital Corporation, and Surgeon to the British and Foreign Musical Society, and to the Jew's Free School. He was also a Fellow of the Otolological Society of the United Kingdom and a member of the British Laryngological and Rhinological Association. He belonged likewise to the British Medical Association and contributed to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL a few papers on laryngological subjects.

Personally Dr. Matheson was a typical Highlander in the best sense of the term, of commanding presence, pleasing address, and unbounded hospitality. He was thoroughly versed in Gaelic lore and a good speaker in the language. To give a complete account of his career in this connexion would necessitate a history of the whole Scottish movement in London during the past thirty-five years. The fortunes of the old Gaelic Society, now a powerful and influential body, were at a very low ebb when he first came to London. He was its President for several years, and it was to his activity that its revival was greatly due. For fifteen years he held a commission as Surgeon in the London Scottish Volunteers and started the annual contests for Scotsmen which are now one of the best recognized events of athletic London. He also took part in the movement which led to the establishment of occasional Gaelic services at the Scottish Church in Crown Court; and was a Governor of the Royal Scottish Corporation. With the Highland Society of London (part of whose work it is to assist deserving Gaelic-speaking students by bursaries to a university career) his connexion was long close, and invaluable. He was its joint honorary secretary for the long period of twenty-five years, and gave up the work only this year.

Allusion to his impending retirement was made at the last annual dinner of the Society, when the Prince of Wales was present as a guest, by the President, the Marquis of Tullibardine. Owing, he said, to his advancing age, Dr. Matheson felt unable to continue the work any longer, and they would thus lose the aid of a man who had rendered them such magnificent service and who had been their right hand and counsellor for more years than the speaker could remember. Shortly after this dinner a large sum of money was collected with the intention of making a suitable testimonial to Dr. Matheson, but his death occurred before the final arrangements connected with the project could be completed.

Dr. Matheson—who, it may be noted, was also on the Commission of Peace for the County of London—was married, and is survived by a wife, two daughters, and one son, the latter being a member of the medical profession.

JOSEPH GREASLEY, M.R.C.S. ENG., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. EDIN.—Many of our readers will hear with deep regret of the death of Dr. Joseph Greasley of Leicester, which occurred from pericarditis at the beginning of this month, after an illness lasting little over a fortnight. Dr. Greasley received his medical education at Edinburgh, where he gained a silver medal both in chemistry and in anatomy. He became M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin. in 1877, and eventually took up his residence in Leicester. At the time of his death he had been engaged in general practice in that town for nearly thirty years, and during that period devoted a good deal of his time to the affairs of the Wycliffe Society for Helping the Blind. He had under his charge all the blind in Leicester in whom the Society interested itself, and attended also to the medical requirements of the residents in the Wycliffe Cottage Homes for the Blind. The loss of his generous and ready assistance must be a serious blow to this Society, and will be felt in other quarters likewise. He was a member of the local Division of the British Medical Association and on the Executive Committee for the annual meeting in July last, and the esteem and respect in which he was held by his colleagues is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that, in addition to the presence at his funeral of a number of medical men in a private capacity, the Association was officially represented by Dr. Astley Clarke, the Honorary Secretary of the Midland Branch. The Wycliffe Society and the Prudential Assurance Company also sent representatives. Dr. Greasley was married, and has left a widow and one son, to whom we tender our sympathy.

SURGEON WALTER MOSES GIBAUT, Army Medical Service, retired, died at Surbiton on September 6th, aged 73. He entered the service as Assistant Surgeon, February 3rd, 1854; became Surgeon, September 22nd, 1863; and retired, October, 1871. He was in the campaign in the Crimea from February to August, 1853, and was at the siege of Sebastopol, receiving the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal.

THE death is announced of Dr. SARAH B. FLEMING, one of the pioneers of the woman-doctor movement in America, and the first woman upon whom the University of Syracuse, in the State of New York, bestowed a degree in medicine. She was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania, some seventy years ago, and received her degree in 1873. She was a member of the New York State Medical Society and of the Medical Society of Washington, and carried on the practice of her profession in Washington, Baltimore, and Rochester, but for some years past had lived in retirement in California.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

WATER SUPPLY REGULATIONS.

A MEETING of the Joint Committee on Water Regulations was held at the Guildhall, London, on September 15th, under the presidency of Dr. Robert Crawford of Glasgow. The committee comprises representatives of the majority of the chief water undertakings of the kingdom, of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the British Association of Waterworks Engineers, and of the Plumbers' Company. A report was presented containing particulars of the practice of fifty-four of the principal water undertakings of the United Kingdom, showing a great deal of variation in the regulations as well as in the rate of consumption of water in