

Obituary.

SIR HENRY R. SWANZY,

SURGEON TO THE ROYAL VICTORIA EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL, AND
OPHTHALMIC SURGEON TO THE ADELAIDE
HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

WE regret to announce that Sir Henry R. Swanzy died, after a brief illness, at his residence, in Dublin, on the evening of April 12th.

Henry Swanzy was a son of the late John Swanzy, a Freeman of Dublin, and was born in 1844. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and graduated M.B. in 1865. He obtained the L.R.C.S. in the following year. He then went abroad and spent several years in study at the Universities of Berlin and Vienna, and was assistant to the late Professor von Graefe at his private ophthalmic hospital in Berlin. He acted as surgeon in the Prussian army during the campaign of 1866. He then returned to Dublin, and practised as a specialist in ophthalmology. In 1873 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and an M.A. of Dublin University. In 1888 he delivered the Bowman Lecturer before the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, taking as his subject the value of eye symptoms in the localization of cerebral disease. From 1897 to 1899 he was President of the society. From 1906 to 1908 he was President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In 1905 he was granted the M.D. degree (*honoris causâ*) in the Dublin University. He was also an Honorary D.Sc. of the University of Sheffield. In 1911 he received the greatest honour that the ophthalmologists of the world could bestow, when he was selected for the post of President of the Ophthalmological Section of the International Congress of Medicine to be held in London next August. He was the author of a *Handbook of Diseases of the Eye and their Treatment*, which for many years was a standard textbook, and was recently published in an enlarged form under joint authorship. He also wrote the article on "Eye Diseases and Eye Symptoms in their Relation to Organic Disease of the Brain and Spinal Cord," in the *System of Diseases of the Eye*, published in 1900, and contributed numerous important articles to the *Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society* and to the medical journals.

Sir Henry Swanzy was surgeon to the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and to his exertions is largely due the erection of the present hospital, though he has not lived to see the original plans of the building completed. Sir Henry Swanzy as a man was respected by all, but his real character was only known to his intimate friends; behind a veil of modesty and shyness, which was apt to give the impression of brusqueness to those who did not know him well, was a rich sense of humour, a warm heart, and a great charity, always ready in private life to find excuses for those who failed.

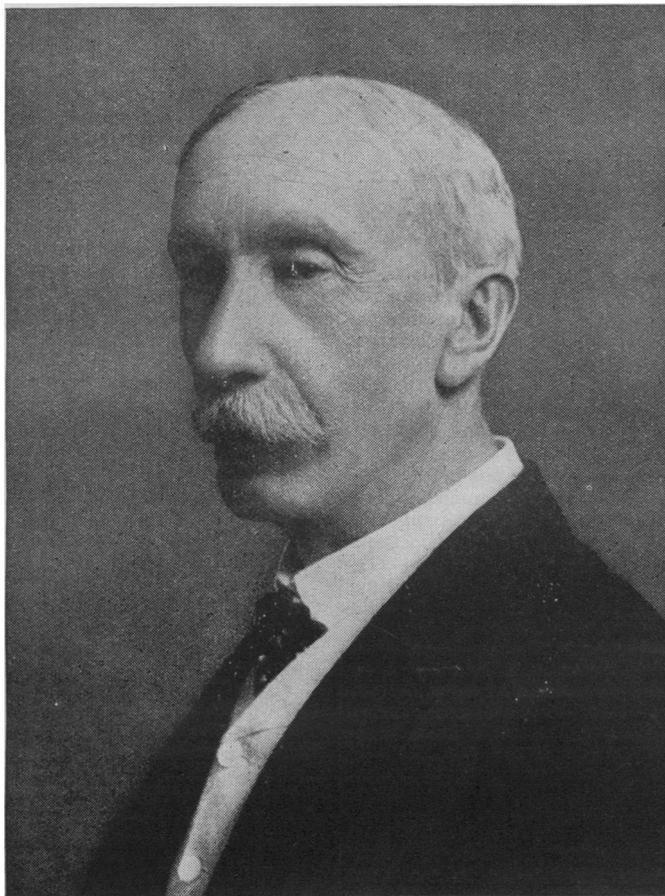
The writer of this notice can vouch for the truth of the

following story, which was typical of the man. A medical student who went to consult him about his eyes asked him his fee. Sir Henry said, "Nothing; dog don't eat dog." "Oh," said the student, "I'm not qualified yet; I am only a student." Sir Henry's reply was, "Neither does dog eat puppy." In public debate Sir Henry was unsparing and scathing to any whom he suspected of humbug and dishonesty of purpose, but with the honest striver, however inefficient, his patience was inexhaustible. His death will leave for long a blank, both in the profession and among his friends, that will be hard to fill.

Mr. PRIESTLEY SMITH, Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Birmingham, writes:

The news of the death of Sir Henry Swanzy, which reached me this afternoon, fills me with a sense of heavy personal loss. For very many years he has been not

only a leader among British ophthalmic surgeons, but, to those of us who knew him well, a highly valued friend. He belonged thoroughly to the present, but was a link with a distant past, for he had worked with von Graefe in Berlin. At the meeting of the British Medical Association in Cambridge in 1880, when Bowman and Donders received honorary degrees, Swanzy was there, I think, as a vice-president in our Section, already a man of grave and dignified appearance; and until quite lately he has been a frequent and active participator at meetings and congresses in this country and abroad. Time seemed to change him wonderfully little—always the same dignity with modesty, kindness, and humour. He threw himself with boundless energy into all that he undertook. No one who was present will forget his earnest, yet humorous, appeal to the members of the Ophthalmological Society when a change in its constitution was under consideration. A busy man no longer



Photograph by]

SIR HENRY R. SWANZY.

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young, he came from Dublin to speak and vote on a matter which was very near his heart, though of no importance to him personally, starting on his return journey a few minutes after having done so. I will not speak of his scientific eminence, of the great work which he did for his hospital, or of the high official positions which he had held and was still to hold. At this moment one thinks rather of his genial presence, of the delight of many meetings with him in the past, of his acts of friendship, and of the blank which his removal will leave among us.

Sir ANDERSON CRITCHETT, Bart. (London), writes:

A fraternal friendship had existed between Sir Henry Swanzy and myself for nearly forty years, and I cannot yet realize to the full the extent of the heavy loss which I have sustained.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new," and his death breaks one of the few remaining links which connect us with the days of Donders, Bowman, my father, and von Graefe. He acted for some months as

assistant to the last named in Berlin, and he greatly valued his association with that remarkable genius, whose memory he held in lasting and profound veneration.

It was impossible to know Swanzy without loving him, for, with the highest qualities of intellect and of character, he combined a warmth of heart and a store of genial wit which attracted and held fast all who came within the range of his friendship.

He published one of the most excellent handbooks extant on diseases of the eye; it passed through many editions and is still in deservedly high favour; and the "Bowman lecture" which he delivered in 1888 has always taken rank as one of the best in that brilliant series, for it combined originality of thought and expression with diligent and successful research. He was ever an eloquent and a convincing speaker. Sir Henry Swanzy achieved the highest professional honours to which an ophthalmic surgeon can aspire, for he had been President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and he was President-elect of the Ophthalmic Section of the International Medical Congress which is to be held in London next August.

"After life's fitful fever he sleeps well"; but our warmest sympathy will go out to the surviving daughters who mourn their irreplaceable loss.

Mr. J. B. LAWFORD (London) writes:

The death of Sir Henry Swanzy removes a well-known and striking personality from the ranks of our profession. One of the *doyens* of British ophthalmology Swanzy was widely known and as widely respected, and many of his colleagues and pupils were attached to him by ties which were closer than those of mere friendship. A man of decided character and strong views, which he was well able to maintain, his courtesy and charming manner were obvious to all who came into contact with him; to those who knew him intimately Sir Henry exhibited all the warmth and cordiality of his Celtic nature. As a host he was altogether delightful, and as a guest no one could be more pleasant.

No words of mine are necessary to enhance his professional reputation, earned by many years of untiring diligence. I have had many opportunities of admiring the thoroughness with which, during his later years, he kept abreast of modern developments in ophthalmology. In this he was greatly helped by his knowledge of other tongues, and especially of German, in which language he was proficient.

Rather more than two years ago Sir Henry was chosen as President of the Section of Ophthalmology of the forthcoming International Medical Congress, a selection which was a source of much satisfaction to ophthalmologists abroad, to many of whom he was personally known, and not a few of whom counted him an intimate friend. He accepted this office with considerable reluctance, and told me he was doubtful if he was physically fit for the labour it would entail. Having accepted office, he devoted much time and energy to the arrangements for the Section over which he was to preside and in which he took a keen interest. Last August he visited Heidelberg during the meeting of the Ophthalmologische Gesellschaft, and addressed the assembly, extending to the members a hearty invitation to the Congress on behalf of himself and his colleagues in this country. This year he had made all arrangements to go to Paris in May during the meeting of the Société d'Ophthalmologie Française with a view of furthering the interests of the Congress. His death, occurring so near the date of the Congress, is an irreparable loss to the Section of Ophthalmology.

TWO MEDICAL MISSIONARIES TO CHINA.

CECIL FREDERICK ROBERTSON, M.B., B.S.Lond.,
F.R.C.S.Eng.

DR. CECIL ROBERTSON, whose death from typhus fever took place at Sian Fu, Shensi, North China, on March 16th, was one of the capable young medical men who have recently joined the ranks of the Baptist Missionary Society. He was a student at Middlesex Hospital, and took the degrees of M.B., B.S.Lond. in 1907, and in 1909 he became F.R.C.S.Eng. He held the posts of house-physician and house-surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital, the latter appointment under Sir Alfred Pearce Gould. In

October, 1909, he went out to China as the colleague of Dr. Stanley Jenkins, and was stationed at Sian Fu, the capital of the province of Shensi, in North China.

When Dr. Jenkins came home on furlough in 1911 Dr. Robertson took charge of the hospital, and almost immediately after he was called to play a part in mitigating the horrors of the revolution, which in that part nearly resulted in the massacre of the missionaries, and did actually lead to terrible slaughter among the Manchus; some 15,000 were killed in Sian Fu on October 22nd and their heads were exposed on the city walls. The presence of Dr. Robertson in the city was one of the most important factors in the situation, for doctors were wanted, and Dr. Robertson was requested to go to the place where fighting was taking place and organize the ambulance department. Through scenes of the utmost horror Dr. Robertson worked with enthusiasm and skill, performing many operations when permitted to do so, though often the prejudices of the people hindered his work. After this he was called upon to operate on a brother medical missionary—Dr. Young—for appendicitis; the operation was successful.

All this work gained for him and his colleagues the gratitude of the Chinese authorities, which was shown by the presentation to him by the army of a tablet containing a laudatory address, and a red silk umbrella by the people.

A few days before his death he went a six days' ride to attend the sick child of a missionary; on his return he contracted typhus fever and died.

He was a manly Christian, and endeared himself not only to his fellow missionaries but the Chinese, and his funeral was attended by Chinese soldiers and officials.

HERBERT STANLEY JENKINS, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng.

DR. STANLEY JENKINS died of typhus fever on April 6th, no doubt as a result of attending his junior colleague, Dr. Robertson. Dr. Jenkins was a distinguished student of the Bristol Medical School, where he won several prizes and scholarships, including a gold medal. He took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1898, the degrees of M.B., B.S.Lond. in 1901, and that of M.D.Lond. in 1903; he took the F.R.C.S.Eng. the same year.

He was not only well qualified as a medical man, but he was a leader in the Student Christian movement at Bristol; an appreciation appended from his friend, Dr. G. Basil Price, indicates the influence which he exerted. Like many another medical missionary, he exercised a great influence on boys amongst whom he worked.

For several years he held resident posts at Bristol and at St. Mark's Hospital, London. His most important work was done at the Mount Vernon Hospital, where he acted as registrar and pathologist. He wrote a report on Open-air Treatment of Consumption, published in 1901.

He went out to China under the Baptist Missionary Society in 1904 to Sian Fu in Shensi, North China. There he took charge of the medical mission work, and soon became its leader, and was greatly beloved by the Chinese.

He came home on furlough in 1911, and it was during his absence from China that the revolution occurred which has been described in the notes on Dr. Robertson's career. Whilst on furlough he did some post-graduate work in public health, but returned rather earlier than had been contemplated owing to the great strain which had come upon his colleagues. He reached China again at the end of 1912, only four months before his death.

Dr. Jenkins married the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Loyeridge of Llandaff, and his wife and children were at the coast when he was taken ill. She was able to take the two-weeks' journey to Sian Fu in time to assist in nursing him on his deathbed.

The loss of Dr. Jenkins is keenly felt not only by the Baptist Missionary Society, but by a wide circle of missionary friends. He was a thoughtful, cultured man of sterling character, unselfish to the core, and his place will be hard to fill.

DR. G. BASIL PRICE writes:

I first knew him as a school friend and afterwards at University College, Bristol, and though our friendship has only at long intervals had opportunity of being renewed, owing to his sphere of work being in China, I have never