been undoubtedly devoted by himself and his colleagues to the arrangements for the annual meeting. He spoke in high terms of the assistance he had derived from the various members of the Committee, and concluded by saying that he felt exceedingly obliged to the members present for the kind way in which they referred to Mrs. Ferguson. He was sure, would be very gratified indeed at the kindness that had been shown her in every direction. (Loud applause.) The proceedings then terminated.

Erratum.—In the discussion on the report of the Constitution Committee, under the head of “Co-optors,” in the British Medical Journal of August 12, page 203, the last paragraph should read “The amendment was then put,” etc., and not as printed.

OBITUARY.

CARSTEN HOLTHOUSE, F.R.C.S.,
Consulting Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital, and to the Royal Eye Hospital.

Mr. CARSTEN HOLTHOUSE, in former years well known in the surgical world, passed away on July 18th, at the advanced age of 60. He was one of the last three original Fellows of the College of Surgeons, and since the death of Sir Rutherford Alocok had been the senior. His later life had been spent in complete retirement, and during the last two years in grievous bodily affliction. He was born on October 14th, 1810, the eldest son of Mr. Carsten Holthouse of Edmonton. After being educated at various private schools, he began his professional training at the age of 14 by apprenticeship to his uncle, Mr. Le Gay Brewerton, of Bawtry, in Yorkshire. This method of instruction, though severe, he always found the best possible for a medical man, because of the practical knowledge it gave of the details of everyday medical work, and he never ceased to regret its abolition.

Released from his articles before their expiration, he became a student at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, where he served as dresser under Sir William Lawrence, and clinical clerk under Dr. Latham. He obtained the diploma of L.S.A. in 1833, and that of M.R.C.S. in the following year.

After some months of further study in Paris, Mr. Holthouse returned to London and started practice under the roof of his father, then living in Keppel Street. His spare time during this period was largely spent in the out-patient department of his old hospital, where he first became interested in diseases of the eye. He then pursued medical studies for many years, and never entirely abandoned, although others claimed from him greater attention. He published a series of papers on some of the More Remediable Forms of Deafness in 1835. But it was his interest in the Weymouth School, a subject which had given him a direct relation with the Institution, in the service of which he had spent the best years of his life.

After his retirement Mr. Holthouse turned his mind to the treatment of habitual inebriates, and even started an institution for their reception. Such an attempt at that time would scarcely be successful, but in this instance it only brought anxiety and loss to its author. But Mr. Holthouse’s efforts probably helped to prepare that change in the law which alone could save the world from excesses of indulgence.

In spite of real ability and devotion to his profession, Mr. Holthouse never reaped the reward that he might have looked for. Whilst his work in each branch of surgery that he took up was thorough as far as he went, he also had his energies to range over too many subjects, and, when success in one seemed close at hand, he had already turned his attention to another. Confident also, and justly so, in his own powers of diagnosis and his judgment as to treatment, he would certainly have found means to cope with the views which others might take of a case. These characteristics were not only a serious bar to success in practice.

Till about two years ago Mr. Holthouse enjoyed vigorous health. At that date, after treatment for cataract extraction, he was seized by hemiplegia of the right side with aphasia, but, after a marvellously short interval, almost entirely recovered. Some less severe attacks since gradually destroyed his powers, so that for many weeks before

Owing, however, to the deficiencies in the Museum. The College of Surgeons in the following November refused recognition of the new school, and it was by Mr. Holthouse’s energetic efforts that before the end of the year these deficiencies were made good, and the permission had regained the new Institution. But it was only by granting the hospital students gratuitous admission to the lectures that the school managed to keep going. In spite of this failure seemed imminent, and after lecturing for many years without pay he ever preferred Mr. Holthouse sent in his resignation. As a result of this step he was appointed sole manager of the school, with a free hand to do what he might consider necessary to place it on a sure foundation. Without going into details it may be said that in that year he closed, and if the Institution must, without doubt, be regarded as the real founder of the Westminster Hospital Medical School as it now exists.

On March 14th, 1853, Mr. Holthouse was appointed Assistant-Surgeon, and on January 17th, 1857, Surgeon, to the Westminster Hospital. Between these two dates he spent several months abroad, having been appointed to the staff of the British Hospital at Smyrna during the Crimean war. His colleagues were the late Surgeon Wells and Mr. Hulke. The episode, though interesting and pleasant, proved a serious interruption to Mr. Holthouse’s career in London.

On his return he settled at Storey’s Gate, Westminster, where he remained for many years. Before his visit to the East he had studied ophthalmology and been closely associated with Sir William Bowman. Six lectures on The Pathology of Strabismus and its Treatment by Operation were published in 1849. In 1857 he became one of the founders of the Surrey Ophthalmic or Eye Dispensary, which, for many changes of name and established in a new building, is so well known as the Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark. His book On Squinting, Paralytic Afections of the Eye, and certain Forms of Impaired Vision appeared in 1855 in the treatment of squint Mr. Holthouse always deprecated excessive operation, having become impressed by the disastrous results too often following on vigorous tenotomy. He paid much attention to the visual defect of the deviating eye, and, believing it to be due to disuse, took great pains in attempting to remedy it. At that time, of course, systematic treatment of convergent squint by spectacles was not practised.

In regard to surgical work in general, Mr. Holthouse, though a careful, was not a brilliant operator, but his diagnosis was rarely at fault, and his treatment after operation was careful and conscientious. Besides occasional papers he wrote the article on The Lower Extremity in the first two editions of Holme’s Surgery, and, in 1870, a work On Hernial and Other Tumours of the Groin.

On reaching the age of 65 he retired from his post as Surgeon, being appointed on October 29th, 1875, Consulting Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital, and was urged by an end his direct relations with the Institution, in the service of which he had spent the best years of his life.

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