

to the arnica in these cases from the result of physiological experiments made by him, with the view of studying the *modus operandi* of this substance on wounds. Its property of producing resolution, evidently due to its influence on the vaso-constructor nerves, gave him the idea of applying it in all cases of acute superficial inflammation, such as boils, angina, erysipelas, etc. These experiments have convinced M. Planet that arnica arrests all furuncular eruptions with remarkable rapidity. M. Planet makes an exception in the cases of diabetic boils, which have not come under his observation, and of carbuncle, which, by reason of its exceptionally serious character, he has treated in the ordinary way. He has been equally successful in cases of erysipelas and acute simple angina, but is not quite so clear about this as of the case of boils. The arnica was applied directly to the inflamed parts in the form of an ointment, composed of ten grammes of extract of fresh arnica flowers to twenty grammes of honey. If this mixture be too thin, lycopodium or althea powder, or any similar substance, may be added so as to give it the necessary consistence. It is spread on diachylon plaster or oiled silk, and applied to the boil. Generally it is sufficient to renew this dressing once in twenty-four hours. Two or three applications generally cause the boil to die away at all stages of its evolution.

Dr Planet has also given internally, in cases of this character, tincture of arnica in doses of from twenty-five to thirty drops in a draught to be taken in teaspoonfuls every two hours, and has thereby obtained so rapid an extinction of the furuncular eruption, that it seemed impossible to him to deny the special action of the drug. He, however, noted greater efficiency from its direct application.—*Medical Record*, 15th Feb. 1878.

Part Fifth.

MEDICAL NEWS.

OBITUARY.

DR MACKENZIE OF KELSO.

It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Dr Mackenzie of Kelso, which event took place somewhat suddenly on the afternoon of the 13th inst. As he has for many years deservedly occupied a prominent place among the medical practitioners of the Borders, we would desire to offer a slight tribute of respect to his memory. Born in Edinburgh in 1819, he was educated at the old High School, afterwards studied at the University of Edinburgh, and in 1839 obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons there. Subsequently he was engaged as

surgeon in the merchant vessels *John Gaunt* and *William Mitchell*, in which ships he visited Australia, India, China, etc. On his return from sea he commenced practice in Edinburgh, but afterwards removed to Letham, in Fife. About thirty years ago, the late Mr John Stuart, who had succeeded his father in practice in Kelso, found it necessary to have an assistant, as his sight was failing, in consequence of incipient cataract. For a long series of years he had been recognised as one of the most distinguished and successful surgeons in the district, and as the situation to be filled was really an important one, he was most desirous to secure the services of some one who was thoroughly competent. After various negotiations he ultimately entered into an arrangement with Mr Mackenzie, upon the recommendation of Dr Watson-Wemyss. Then it was by no means so common as now for general practitioners to have a double qualification. Mr Stuart, being fully alive to the advantages to be derived from having such honours, urged upon his friend the propriety of his obtaining a degree, and accordingly, in 1849, he graduated at the University of Edinburgh. Subsequently Mr Stuart assumed him as a partner. By-and-by, when increasing blindness and failing health compelled him to retire, Dr Mackenzie carried on their extensive practice unaided, with very great acceptability to the community among whom he laboured. He was only able to do this by being very methodical and economical of his time. He was an early riser, and often overtook long journeys during the hours which most people devote to rest. In cases of real illness, when there was occasion for anxiety, no one could be more attentive than he was, and assuredly in such cases he allowed no distinction as to social position to influence him, for while he was the much-trusted attendant of the rich, he was, indeed, in the most practical sense, the friend of the poor. He had, however, a wholesome dread of gaining popularity by being merely what he used to term "an attentive doctor," and consequently he occasionally gave offence by declining to pay visits which he did not consider necessary—in fact, it may with great justice be said of him, that "he knew his art but not his trade." In a country district such as that in which he practised, comparatively few opportunities occur for the performance of surgical operations; but when occasion demanded, he was ever ready to do what was necessary. Self-possessed and quiet in the sick-room, he inspired others with that confidence which he had in himself. He devoted much attention to the diseases of the eye, and often proved himself an expert and successful oculist. Of a genial and cheerful disposition, he was an immense favourite among his professional brethren, and nowhere was this so manifest as at the meetings of the Border Medical Society, which he attended with great regularity. In no house was there ever greater hospitality dispensed than in his, and very many are the friends who will remember the welcome with which they were received, not only by himself, but by Mrs Mackenzie. He had a keen and ready

insight into character, and unquestionably much of his success lay in his tact in managing, as well as treating, his patients, and to these qualities we know that he attached much importance. Although ready with his pen, and well able to write clearly and concisely, he followed the example of his predecessors, and published little. We have often heard him express the wish that men would write less. Many was the caution he gave, more especially to his younger brethren, to avoid rushing into print. Many was the man, he used to say, who, while silent, had obtained credit for knowledge, that had ruined his reputation by publishing himself a blockhead. By the Tweedside Lodge of Oddfellows, of which he was surgeon, he was held in great esteem, and about three years ago they presented him with a handsome testimonial. He was afterwards presented with a public testimonial, consisting of a handsome and valuable time-piece, and a purse containing over five hundred sovereigns. For some time past his health has been failing—his heart and liver were much diseased, but still he continued to practise until within two days of his death, the immediate cause of which was apoplexy. Such was the respect in which he was held, on the day of his funeral all the shops were closed for two hours. The hearse was preceded by the members of the Oddfellow Lodge, while in the rear was the Volunteer Company. There was also a larger attendance of the general public than any one ever remembered to have seen in Kelso. Amongst the mourners were many of the neighbouring gentry and clergy, and also a large number of the members of the Border Medical Society. We are glad to learn that Dr Mackenzie is to be succeeded by his son Dr Alexander Mackenzie, by whom we hope the practice will be long and successfully carried on.

DR MUNGALL OF COWDENBEATH.

DR ROBERT MUNGALL, who died at his residence near Cowdenbeath in March, was too well known to many of us in Edinburgh, and too much respected in his own neighbourhood, for us to allow him to pass away without a brief notice.

A thoroughly-educated, able, clear-headed, sensible man, with great power of work and love of his profession, he, after settling at Cowdenbeath, soon became a power in the district. His family were already well known in Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly as coal and iron masters, and he by his punctuality, courtesy, warm-heartedness, and abundant vitality soon won the confidence of not only the country families, but, much more difficult, the miners themselves; and for nearly twenty years he got through an amount of work which would have killed any ordinary man, and which, in fact, helped to destroy his own magnificent constitution.

Ruddy and muscular, with a constant cheerful smile and regular temper, he seemed to enjoy perpetual youth, and died, after a very short illness, of hæmatemesis, of which he had had several previous warnings, to the great regret of all who knew him.