

nursing was continued throughout the period of convalescence.—Mr. GREIG read a paper on the "Surgical Treatment of Empyema." He gave the results of eighty-four consecutive cases of his own, twenty-one of which ended fatally, and sixty-four successfully. The effects of preceding illness and delay in operation on the prognosis was then dealt with. The operation performed, to be successful, must aim at safety, evacuation of the empyema, and the early closing of the cavity. He emphasised the importance of getting rid of the fibrinous exudation at the operation. Portions of ribs removed from fifteen cases were shown. Professor Stalker spoke on the fatality of left-sided over right-sided empyemata, referred to by Mr. Greig, and pointed out the connection between left-sided pleurisy and pericarditis as a probable explanation. He was glad to find that incision as low down as possible was condemned by Mr. Greig. Dr. Halley, while agreeing with Mr. Greig's operation in adults, questioned its routine adoption to the same extent in children. He considered it necessary, for free drainage, to excise portions of two ribs in all cases of empyemata in children, and considered the drainage tube was then quite useful. Mr. Greig said he got his patients out of bed as soon as the dressing of the wound permitted. It was immaterial whether the incision was in the anterior, middle, or post-axillary line, if sufficient room were obtained for evacuation of the fluid, and removal of the amount of ribs required. If it were in the post, the difficulty was that you had to raise the patient round slightly. He usually adopted the incision in mid-axillary line. He agreed that the fluid should be examined microscopically, as pneumococcal empyemata heal undoubtedly quicker than when due to streptococcal infection alone. He would operate on tuberculous patients, if the physician desired it, but would not agree to aspiration. He would rather leave them alone. He had not found any danger from sudden evacuation of the fluid.

 OBITUARY.

ROBERT JAMES BLAIR CUNYNGHAME, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed.

For a considerable period Dr. Blair Cunynghame had not been in good health, and his death, although sincerely regretted, was not unexpected. He never recovered from a serious attack of pleurisy some years ago, which led to his visiting the Antipodes, and although he was able to perform his duties thoroughly, it was obvious that his health was weak. More than one family bereavement afflicted him, and no doubt increased his physical troubles, yet he bore sorrow and illness bravely and cheerfully, and struggled on till well nigh the end.

Dr. Blair Cunynghame studied medicine in the University of Edinburgh; he took his M.D. in 1862, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1866. He was in his day one of the House Surgeons of the Royal Infirmary, and a President of the Royal Medical Society, and immediately thereupon he studied on the Continent. Shortly after graduating he entered the Army Medical Service, and was gazetted to the Rifle Brigade. After serving with his regiment for some years, he resigned his commission and settled in practice in Edinburgh, devoting special attention to diseases of the throat;

a department which was then in its infancy. He became also the University Assistant to the late Professor Sanders, and during several long illnesses of that distinguished teacher he undertook all the duties of the chair with great acceptance. Subsequently he became Physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, but on the death of Dr. Robertson, which shortly followed his appointment, he was nominated to the post of Superintendent of Statistics to the Registrar-General. In this office Dr. Blair Cunynghame found his life work, and threw himself with enthusiasm into its duties. This was especially the case in the analysis of the Census Returns, and the report which he issued on the Census of 1901 was a masterly piece of work. Those who are conversant with vital statistics have pointed out that it is in every respect a model of what such a report should be.

Dr. Blair Cunynghame was for some time Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, in which office he succeeded his life-long friend, Mr. Joseph Bell. As in all other official positions, he filled this onerous post to the universal satisfaction of the Fellows of the College, and only demitted office in order to undertake the duties of President. In this prominent situation, in the glare of that fierce light which beats upon the chair, he acquitted himself with gracious dignity and unswerving impartiality; in his hands, certainly the Presidentship of the College lost none of its distinction. As proprietor of Cronan, he was one of the lairds of Perthshire, and was on the Commission of the Peace for that county.

The subject of this sketch was one of the most honourable of men, holding lofty ideals of duty, from which he was never known in the slightest degree to swerve. A loyal friend in all conditions, a fearless opponent when occasion demanded, the embodiment of courtesy in every relation, and the soul of generosity in thought and deed,—little wonder that, throughout a wide circle, there is deep sorrow over the void left by his death.

DEPUTY-SURGEON-GENERAL JAMES LEITCH, M.D. EDIN.

By the death of Dr. Leitch on 13th January, a familiar figure has been removed from Club-land in Edinburgh.

A native of Perthshire, James Leitch (whose father and grandfather were in succession doctors at Logie-Almond, and whose great-grandfather served in the Peninsular War), came from school to the University of Edinburgh ere the close of the third decade of the last century, and passed through the somewhat stormy academic times of that epoch, many old yarns of which he used to spin. Graduating in 1844, and in the same year obtaining the licence of the Royal College of Surgeons, he set himself at once to acquire some practical acquaintance with his profession. But, being attracted to the public services, he entered the medical department of the army in 1846, and was gazetted to the Ross-shire Buffs—the old 78th—now the second battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders, in that year. Thereafter he was for many years engaged in various medical capacities in Her Majesty's service, and finally retired with the rank of Deputy-Surgeon-General.

Throughout his life he was proud of having served under the famous motto, "Cuidich 'n Righ," and lived on terms of friendly