

tration, led the Government, in 1855, to appoint him as commissioner to proceed to the Crimea with Colonel Tulloch to inquire into the whole arrangement and management of the commissariat department, and also into the alleged delay in unshipping and distributing the clothing and other stores supplied for the use of the troops. Six months after they returned, the House of Commons, representing the will of the nation, unanimously voted an address to the Queen, praying Her Majesty to confer some mark of distinction upon the commissioners in recognition of their services, and Her Majesty was graciously pleased to name Sir John a Privy Councillor, and Colonel Tulloch a K.C.B. He also received the thanks of the Government, and £1000 was offered for his services. This, however, he refused to accept.

Sir John was President of the Edinburgh Literary Institute for a number of years, and Deputy Lieutenant of the City and County of the City of Edinburgh. He was an honorary D.C.L. of Oxford, a LL.D. of Edinburgh, and a F.R.S.E.

As an author he is known by his work on the *Progress and Position of Russia in the East to 1854*; his *Report on the Condition of the Poor in the Western Highlands*, 1851; the *Report of the Crimean Commissioners in 1855*; and the new edition of Colonel Tulloch's *Review of the Crimean Commission and the Chelsea Board*, already referred to.

Although Sir John retired from the medical profession in 1836, he always took interest in all that belonged to it. On the other hand, his professional education must have been of great service to him, whether attending to the Persian nobles or giving advice to the poor people of his native isle, whether estimating the amount of nourishment and clothing necessary for health for a pauper living peaceably in the Western Highlands or for a soldier roughing it in the Crimea.

Sir John was thrice married, and is survived by Lady Emma Augusta, daughter of the 7th Duke of Argyll.

MR BENJAMIN BELL, F.R.C.S. ED.

FOR many years past the name of Benjamin Bell of Edinburgh has been familiar as a household word, and it was only natural that the news of his death on the 13th of June should elicit, as it did, general and sincere regret. It need scarcely be said that many, both in the profession and out of it, will greatly miss him; but in a marked degree will the readers of this Journal do so, who have often been instructed and charmed by his contributions to these pages, although they knew not on all occasions to whose scholarly and genial pen they were indebted for the profit and pleasure they received. It is most fitting, therefore, that here, of all places, a tribute, however slight and inadequate it may be, should now be paid to his memory.

Mr Bell, a descendant of an old Dumfriesshire family, whose

lands lay in the parish of Middlebie, was born at Edinburgh on 13th April 1810. His grandfather—whose portrait by Beugo, after the fine painting by Sir Henry Raeburn, is treasured by collectors—was the celebrated Mr Benjamin Bell, author of *The System of Surgery*, etc., and his father, Mr Joseph Bell, also attained considerable eminence as a surgeon. Animated by the example of such distinguished ancestry, the subject of our sketch chose the medical profession as the sphere of his life's labours. His education was thorough and varied. After having received all the instruction that Edinburgh could then furnish, he went to London, and there was a favoured pupil and friend of such men as Lawrence, Stanley, Travers, and Baly, who produced an influence on him that was distinctly traceable through his whole life and action. His mind at that early period was singularly mature and well-balanced, digesting thoroughly all he acquired,—of clear-sighted candour and receptiveness, rejecting nothing and admitting nothing till he had, with careful and deliberative consideration, examined the subject in all its bearings. At that time, too, he had to make up his mind on matters connected with religious, moral, and social life, and did so with such firmness and decisiveness that the conclusions he then came to operated throughout his whole subsequent career, only deepening and mellowing as years went on, but never wavering in essentials, and never yielding to pressure, from whatever side it might come, always presenting himself as an upright, consistent, righteous, and devoted man, true to himself, and equally true to others and to the cause he for the time advocated and supported,—

“*Justum et tenacem propositi virum.*”

In 1832 Mr Bell became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and in the following year a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England. In 1835 he was elected a Fellow of the Edinburgh College, and ultimately, in 1864, was chosen its President. All along he took an active interest in the work of that corporation, frequently acting as examiner. In 1864, also, he was appointed one of the non-professorial examiners for degrees in medicine in the University of Edinburgh. As a member, he was associated with the Royal Medical and Medico-Chirurgical Societies of Edinburgh, and was President of the latter body in 1859. Very early in his career he acquired an extensive practice as a physician, but his predilections naturally impelled him to the surgical branch of his profession, and to diseases of the eye he thenceforth gave special attention. In 1834, in conjunction with Mr Robert Hamilton, he established the Eye Infirmary of Edinburgh, which for many years owed everything to his care. His professional activity, even in advanced life, was far from being circumscribed, and various other institutions were favoured with his much appreciated services. Among these may be mentioned the Royal Dispensary and the Royal Blind Asylum; and in connexion with the latter it is gratifying to record that, on 14th December 1869, the male

and female workers presented him with a very handsome gold watch, "as a small token," it was said, "of their loving gratitude for his great kindness and attention to them for the long period of thirty years, during which he had acted as their medical attendant, at no little personal inconvenience, and for a merely nominal honorarium." And at his funeral in the beautiful cemetery of the Dean, it was most touching to observe some blind men placing a wreath of flowers upon their benefactor's grave.

The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society also owed much to Mr Bell's enthusiasm and fostering care. Although, strictly speaking, he was not one of the little company who founded the Society in 1841, of whom Dr Abercrombie was the moving spirit and the Rev. G. D. Cullen is now the only survivor, the claims of Medical Missions had from the first his warmest sympathy. In 1843 he became Joint Secretary of the Society with the late Dr Coldstream, and after the death of Dr Coldstream in 1863 he performed the duties of the office single-handed. Mr Bell was thus virtually identified with the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society from its commencement, and to him it is indebted, in no small degree, for the prosperity which it now enjoys. So keen was his interest in its work, that he was rarely, if ever, absent from any meeting of the directors, and it is said the chill which induced the lung and heart disorder of which he died was caught at the last meeting he attended.

Our friend was, in the best and largest sense of the word, an accomplished physician, combining the practical and theoretical teachings of the older men with the minute and microscopic research of the more recent, harmonizing them as far as they admitted of harmony; receiving, though not, of course, always accepting, whatever had the promise of progress in science, and applying what he accepted to practical use in the treatment of disease. Above all, he was safe. His patients could and did rely on him as implicitly as his friends did in other relations in life. And he was what all truly good and great men are, single-eyed and simple,—

"Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit."

Mr Bell's contributions to medical literature were numerous and varied.¹ Most of them have appeared in our own Journal, to

¹ The following list embraces some of Mr Bell's acknowledged communications to this Journal:—

"Remarks on Dilution as a Principle of Therapeutics"—January 1856.
 "Remarks on the Physiological Action of Atropine in Dilating the Pupil"—December 1856. "Case in which a Tumour of the Pia Mater caused Compression of the Spinal Cord"—October 1857. "The Therapeutic Relations of Opium and Belladonna to each other"—July 1858. "Case in which Inflammatory Softening existed in a Limited Portion of the Spinal Marrow"—Nov. 1858. "Case of Perforation of the Stomach occurring under Unusual Circumstances"—March 1861. "Harveian Discourse, 1867"—June 1867. "Case of Extravasation of Blood into the Pericardium"—April 1868. "Account of Three Cases of Congenital Cataract in one Family cured by Operation"—June 1868. "A Brief Review and Estimate of the Professional Writings of Benjamin Bell"

which he has for years rendered constant and valuable service, not only as an author of original papers, but also, and that very extensively, as an anonymous reviewer of other men's writings, and the genial, appreciative sketcher of many a professional worthy now passed to his rest. In this connexion it may interest our readers to know that to him they owe that lengthy and searching criticism of Professor Calderwood's work on the *Relations of Mind and Brain* which appeared in the April and May numbers of the Journal of the present year, and which is characterized by rare intellectual ability and careful observation. To him also they are indebted for those charming Addresses to Medical Students contained in our October number year after year, and which sparkle with wisdom, "like apples of gold in pictures of silver." In general literature Mr Bell's most ambitious efforts are the *Life, Character, and Writings of Benjamin Bell*, his grandfather; a *Memoir of Robert Paul, Esq.*, a life-long friend; and the Memorials of his kinsman, the late Lieutenant John Irving, R.N., one of the heroes of the Franklin Expedition.

Mr Bell was a prominent member of the Free Church of Scotland, and for a long series of years was one of the best-known figures in its annual General Assembly, ever ready to take an active share in its varied business and discussions. Along with his relative, the Right Hon. Lord Moncreiff, and the late Lord Ardmillan, he was, in 1841, ordained to the eldership in the parish church of St George's, Edinburgh. When the Disruption came, he cast in his lot with his pastor, Dr Candlish, and left the Established Church. At the time of his death he was what is termed the "father" of Free St George's Kirk-Session; and from the noble and loving tribute paid to his memory, on the day after the funeral, by Dr Whyte, the present minister of the congregation, we take the liberty of making the following extract:—"Over and over again the apostle says that a bishop must be blameless—blameless as a steward of God. And Mr Bell's fulfilment of his forty-two years of office was conspicuously a bishopric without blame. Prominent as, on account of his character and abilities, he was compelled to be in our ecclesiastical and congregational affairs, and involved, as he could not fail sometimes to find himself, in anxious and trying matters, yet by universal consent he came through them all both with unimpaired integrity and with an unruffled temper. Decision of mind and warmth of feeling were not wanting in our friend, as we all quite well remember; but he was possessed of that thrice happy balance of mind and purity of heart which carried him even through keen controversy, hurting no one, and himself unhurt.

(his Grandfather).—November 1868. "A Peculiar Paralytic Condition of the Lower Extremities following Gastric Fever"—May 1870. "Chronic Endo-carditis, independent of Rheumatism and Amenable to Treatment"—July 1877. "Note on some of the Therapeutic Virtues of the Eucalyptus Globulus"—February 1878. "Animal Vaccination"—May 1880. "Eucalyptus Globulus in Typhoid Fever"—August 1881.

His modesty, which too often passed over into too great diffidence, kept Mr Bell from taking the place in public life, and even in literature, which his cultivated abilities fitted him to take. His speeches in times of controversy were always models of perspicuity, calm-mindedness, and high tone; and his pen, when he could be prevailed on to use it, exhibited the same, and even higher qualities."

Mr Bell had the misfortune, more than a year ago, to lose his wife, a daughter of Laurence Craigie, Esq., of Glendoick. Although to outward appearance he seemed to have recovered his usual equanimity, the loss undoubtedly impaired his health, and rendered him less capable than he would otherwise have been to baffle with the effects of the chill already referred to. What he said concerning his departed friend Dr John Brown may with equal truthfulness now be said of himself:—"It is sad to think that his well-known figure, and calm, meditative gait, his intellectual and benignant countenance, shall no longer meet our eye on the streets of Edinburgh. *Abiit ad plures.* He has gone over to the majority. While earth is poorer, heaven is all the richer; for we may safely say, if ever a member of our noble profession manifested the Master's spirit in his daily life, it was the good and gentle brother whom we now deplore."

DR HERVEY B. WILBUR.

Dr HERVEY B. WILBUR, the Medical Superintendent of the New York State Asylum for Idiots at Syracuse, died there very suddenly of heart disease on the 8th of May last. Across the Atlantic his death is received as a public loss, and it will be regretted by all who knew him in this country. He was born in 1820 at Wendell, Massachusetts, and studied at Amherst College. At first he engaged in teaching, and then studied civil engineering, but finally he devoted himself to medicine. He was for six months assistant in a lunatic asylum, and for a short time engaged in medical practice in his native State. These various pursuits combined to fit Dr Wilbur for the main business of his life, the establishment of training schools and asylums for idiots in the New World. Guided by the writings of Dr Edward Seguin, he began, in 1848, a private training school at Barre, Mass. In 1851 he accepted the post of medical superintendent to the experimental school at Albany, which was carried on for three years under the eyes of the State Legislature there, after which it was transferred to Syracuse.

It was no doubt in great part through the success of his labours, the force of his personal character, and the circulation of his writings, that asylums for idiots were established, one after another, in the principal States of the Union. Supported by sufficient funds from the public purse, wisely managed, and well equipped from the outset, the education of idiots took a vigorous growth in