

Mint, who had been moved to University College, London, in succession to Dr Edward Turner. A favourable opening in Dublin having thereafter presented itself, he removed to the Irish capital, and lectured in one of the medical schools there. He was subsequently appointed to the Professorship of Medicine and Chemistry in King's College, Aberdeen, and thus became the occupant of a chair which had been filled by more than one of his distinguished ancestors. In 1844 he was elected to the chair of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.

As a scientific man, Dr William Gregory was more distinguished for his chemical erudition than for his actual contributions to the advancement of the science. He worked more for utility as a teacher, than for fame as a discoverer. His principal memoirs were on Pyroxanthine, a solid volatile product of the destructive distillation of wood; on a Compound of Sulphur and Nitrogen; and on the Decomposition Products of Uric Acid; whilst to practical chemistry he contributed improved processes for the preparation of hydrochloric acid, oxide of silver, and muriate of morphia. He is better known, however, for his writings than for his laboratory work. He had a thorough knowledge of all that had been done, and that is not little, in chemistry up to the present time; and none was better able than he to give information to any inquiring student as to the actual state of our knowledge on any chemical subject, especially in the interesting and pre-eminently important department of organic chemistry. This knowledge he embodied in an elementary work, which, in a succinct form, presents the best *resumé* of chemistry, especially in the organic department, which exists in the English language. He had a thorough knowledge of the Continental languages, especially of German, which he spoke with great fluency; and this he turned to account by translating into English many important treatises, particularly those of his especial friend, Baron Liebig, whose writings have thus been made familiar to every scientific and general student in Britain. With Baron Liebig also he was joint editor of posthumous editions of Dr Edward Turner's "Elements of Chemistry."

Dr Gregory was distinguished by an amiable disposition and kindness of manner, which secured for him the personal regard of all who knew him. His failing, and it is no part of ours to be his unqualified eulogists, was a part of that same gentleness of heart which retained for him so many friendships, and kept him from ever making an enemy. It was a facility of belief, arising in great part, we believe, from a dislike of controversy, which led him to give acceptance to some of those pseudo-sciences, such as mesmerism, which brought his name before the public in connection with persons with whom, if he had never been associated, it would have been more agreeable to his friends, and better for his own reputation. Latterly he devoted his attention to the study of that remarkable class of microscopic organisms, known to naturalists as the Diatomaceæ; and the last volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh contains an elaborate and beautifully illustrated memoir by him on this subject. Notwithstanding his occupation with these inquiries in another field, he continued to be a diligent student of his own science, and kept himself faithfully *au courant du jour* as to what was going on in the chemical world. It is true that he originated no remarkable views, and made no brilliant discoveries; but as a teacher and writer, he has been highly useful in his day and generation; and for this, as well as for his amiable disposition, his memory will be cherished and respected.

Dr Gregory died in his fifty-fourth year.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF M. CHOMEL.

The medical profession in France has sustained a severe loss in the death of M. Chomel. The event took place on Friday, April 9th ult., when this dis-

tinguished physician succumbed to a protracted and painful illness, by which he had been prevented following his usual avocations for more than a year. M. Chomel was born at Paris in 1738, and belonged to a family which has produced some of the most distinguished physicians and authors of their day; he was the last descendant of the celebrated author of the work, *Des Plantes Usuelles*, of Pierre Jean Baptiste Chomel, the pupil and friend of Tournefort, one of the deans of the Ancient Faculty of Medicine of Paris, and founder of the School of Pharmacy; among his ancestors was one of the historians of medicine, the eloquent panegyrist of Duret, Jean Baptiste Louis Chomel. His own father, too, had rendered himself famous in the literature of his time by his talents as a writer, following in the footsteps of Aulu Gelle.

M. Chomel had received a most liberal and complete education. Entering at an early age upon the service of the hospitals, he was first connected with the hospital of La Charité; he was soon nominated ordinary physician of that institution; and lastly, professor of the Clinique Médicale at the Hotel Dieu. He showed all the qualities of a great and accomplished physician; most upright in his practice—of the keenest perception—possessed of the utmost good nature and patience, along with perfect decision of purpose—and ever ready to sacrifice himself in his devotion to his patients. His eminent qualities led to his being called to take a part in the “Conseil Supérieur de l’Instruction Publique,” and there, as everywhere, he was remarked for the justice of his principles, the excellence of his judgment, and the value of his counsels.

At the obsequies of M. Chomel the Faculty of Medicine of Paris were represented by a numerous deputation, along with men of distinction in all ranks and professions; and addresses were delivered in the name of the Faculty of Medicine, by Professor Grisolle, and in the name of the Academy of Medicine, by M. Dubois (d’Amiens).—(*L’Union Médicale, Gazette des Hôpitaux, etc.*, April 1858.)

VARIETIES.

THE CHEMISTRY CHAIR.—Professor George Wilson entered the field with such prospects of success that his election might have been looked for as certain, had he not subsequently retired from the contest at the request of Government, who have liberally increased his salary, so as to keep a useful public servant in a post for which he is admirably qualified. This withdrawal has enabled Dr Lyon Playfair to commence his canvass, because, we understand that that gentleman had determined to offer no opposition to the claims of his friend Dr Wilson. Professor Anderson of Glasgow, Professor Blyth of Cork, and a Dr Maxwell Simpson, are also named as candidates. The strange proposal to offer the chair to Dr Faraday, has met with a decided refusal from that distinguished physicist. The election is to take place on the 29th of June.

STATUE OF JENNER.—The inauguration of this statue in Trafalgar Square, London, took place on the 17th ult. Prince Albert presided, and all passed off with great éclat. From discussions in Parliament, it appears that this statue is placed in accordance with a general plan for the adornment of Trafalgar Square, with the statues of eminent men in all professions.

NEGLECT OF BRAIN DISEASE.—The poor overwrought brain meets with but little attention and consideration when in a state of incipient disorder. The faintest scintillation of mischief progressing in the lungs, heart, liver, and stomach immediately awakens alarm, and medical advice and treatment are eagerly sought; but serious, well-marked symptoms of brain disorder are often entirely overlooked and neglected; such affections frequently being permitted