Obituaries

Thomas J. W. Burgess, M.D., F.R.C.S., for many years superintendent of the Verdun Protestant Hospital for the Insane, and Professor of Mental Diseases in McGill University, died on January 18, 1925. He was born in Toronto in 1849, educated at Upper Canada College, and entered upon the study of medicine at Toronto, where he graduated in 1870 winning the first university silver medal and the Starr gold medal. After graduation he acted as clinical assistant in the Toronto Lunatic Asylum until he received the appointment of surgeon to the North America Boundary Commission. On the completion of the survey he was tendered the thanks of H. M. Government for his efficient services. Mental diseases however early attracted his attention, and shortly after he finished his service on the Boundary Commission, he accepted the position of assistant physician to the London Insane Asylum. After two years service there he was offered the appointment of assistant superintendent at the Hamilton Insane Asylum; these positions were filled with much credit to himself. In 1890, the erection of the Verdun Protestant Hospital for the Insane was completed and he was chosen to be its first superintendent; later on, he was appointed as Professor of Mental Diseases in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University. These positions he continued to fill with much honour until 1923 when he resigned on account of ill health and advanced age.

During his trip across the continent in connection with the Boundary Commission he devoted his spare hours to the study of the flora of the various territories he passed through, and during the early years of his professional life wrote numerous essays on botanical subjects. "A botanical holiday in Nova Scotia" and "The Lake Erie shore as a botanizing ground" were perhaps the most interesting of these. His chief literary effort however was his contribution to the "Institutional care of the insane in the United States and Canada," a work in four volumes.

He was also author of "An Historical Sketch of Canadian Institutions for the Insane." In the preparation of these sketches he delved deeply into old records which described the treatment of insanity among the Indian tribes and the early settlers in the 17th century, quoting from many of the early writers. Among other facts he gave a most interesting account of the founding of St. Jean de Dieu Hospital in 1823. One, Monsieur Gamelin adopted in pity an idiot child in whom he became much interested; Madame Gamelin after her husband's death devoted the remainder of her life to the care of this child, and other insane who were brought to her and thus founded the order of the Sisters of Providence. Their original home, *La Maison Jaune* was the beginning of the magnificent hospital which still remains under the care of the same Sisterhood. In the several articles written by Dr. Burgess, the efforts which have been made to ameliorate the treatment of the insane in this province as well as the difficulties and oppositions encountered, are graphically described.

The outstanding characteristic of Dr. Burgess was his humanity. "As little restraint as practicable; none if possible" was his announced policy, when he became superintendent of Verdun thirty-six years ago. His patients were always his first consideration. Fifteen years ago when Dr. James Douglas of New York offered him a donation of money, with the option of expending it on an amusement hall for the patients or for a nurses' home, Dr. Burgess chose the amusement hall; patients first; the nurses' home must follow in time.

A living testimony to Dr. Burgess' sterling character is the loyalty of his assistants to their old chief. He was strict without being severe, and while exacting from them their full share of duties, he made them take responsibility, and thus trained them for their future work, so that in later years when they had obtained other positions, they retained their love and respect for him, and gladly sought his advice in dealing with difficult problems.

Dr. Burgess disliked notoriety. He was requested to give expert testimony in the Thaw proceedings in Coaticook, but declined although offered a large fee, because he disapproved strongly of the conflicting testimony of alienists in this notorious case. We may also add that so high was the general opinion of Dr. Burgess not only as an alienist but as a man of integrity, that in all the legal cases in which he was engaged, his testimony was accepted without questioning. Dr. Burgess was an active member of the Pen and Pencil Club, a member of the Author's Club of London, England, and stood high in Masonic circles. His chief hobbies were golf and botanical studies. During the last three years of his life after more than half a century of self denying labour he enjoyed a comfortable and well earned rest. He is survived by his widow, daughter of the Late Lieut.-Col. Alexander MacPherson of Whitby, Ont., and three daughters.

A. G. MORPHY

Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Bt., K.C.V.O., died in London on December 15th in his 84th year. His death removes a great figure in the medical world of England. The son of Captain Douglas Scott Powell of the 23rd Welsh Fusileers he entered on the study of medicine in University College Hospital, where he graduated in honours and was afterwards appointed as house physician and resident obstetrical assistant. In 1867 he was elected assistant physician to the Hospital for Consumptives, Brompton, and a few years later became full physician. In 1882 he was appointed physician to the Middlesex Hospital and lecturer on the practice of medicine in its school. He attained a considerable measure of success as a consulting physician at an early stage of his career due in great measure to painstaking clinical and pathological work which earned the respect of his confrères. He was a favourite pupil of Sir William Jenner, and on his recommendation received the appointment of physician to the Court of Queen Victoria. He passed the examination and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1867, and a Fellow in 1873; later on he was appointed on the Council where he served for several years. Finally, he was elected to the Presidency, which he retained till 1910, when he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Barlow. His presidency was characterized by sound judgment and a courteous urbanity with which was combined strength of will and an impressive demeanour.

Sir Humphrey Rolleston, President of the Royal College of Physicians sends the following tribute to his predecessor's memory:—

"Sir Richard Douglas Powell who was successively elected President of the Medical (1891), the old Clinical (1899-1901), and the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Societies (1904-6), and of the Royal College of Physicians (1905-10, eminently maintained their dignity and advanced their prestige. During these years of official authority he played an active part in important changes which owed much to his enlightened and hearty coöperation—for example, the amalgamation of the seventeen separate societies with the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society to form the Royal Society of Medi-

cine in 1907. The Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, of which, in 1907 he was the first president, took form under his hospitable guidance in Wimpole Street with the collaboration of Sir William Osler and Sir Wilmot Herringham. He was one of the last of the distinguished band of broad-minded physicians who were closely connected with Sir William Jenner, and preserved the ideals of medical practice while showing full sympathy with the progressive advances of science.

Preëminent above all these characteristics was his wonderful kindness of heart and his generosity. The weekly *Times* (December 31, 1925) publishes the following tribute to this side of his character from an old patient:—I recall his devoted attendance on a hopeless case many years ago, when he was at the height of his popularity and much overworked. Nevertheless he visited this case every week for many months, knowing that he could do nothing but ease pain and comfort the dying invalid and the lonely surviving relative. "Graceful and polished bearing" may describe the Court physician, but one at least cherishes a memory of that worn ascetic figure rushing up a long flight of stairs, standing calm and serene with his rare smile by the sick bed as if he had not another patient in the world, and then, as soon as the door closed, hurrying off to another case. It was the custom of this patient, who was by no means wealthy, to have a cheque ready for "Dr. Powell," which was handed to him as he left the house. After many weeks he stopped one day on the doorstep and said to the relative, "Don't give me any more cheques, I only burn them"; and this, indeed, was what he had done. A.D.B.

Dr. Neville James Lindsay, one of Calgary's most esteemed citizens, died on December 17, 1925, at the ripe age of eighty-one years. He was the last surviving of those members of the medical profession who settled in Calgary when the city was merely a small hamlet, forty-two years ago.

Dr. Lindsay was born in Westminster township, near London, Ontario, in 1845. His later education was obtained at McGill University and Trinity College, Toronto, and he graduated at the latter institution in 1874. Following this event, he spent some time in New York at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. On his return he settled in Watford, Ontario, where he practised for eight years, coming west to Calgary in 1883, about the tme of the advent of the first Canadian Transcontinental Railroad. He was one of the first physicians to settle here and may truly be called a pioneer. He was a member of Calgary's first Town Council. For many years he looked after the welfare of the Sarcee, Blackfoot and Stoney tribes of Indians in this neighborhood.

When the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed he was appointed Divisional Surgeon. He was also Medical Officer to the Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

In the Klondyke rush of 1898, Dr. Lindsay, although in his fifty-fourth year, made the journey to the Yukon through the White Horse Pass. He made two subsequent trips to the Yukon, staking claims on the Upper Yukon River and in Northern British Columbia.

He was known as the father of Masonry in Alberta and held the offices of Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta A. F. & A. M., and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, for several years.

He is survived by hs wife, one daughter and three sons, one of whom, E. A. Lindsay, F.R.C.S.. (Eng.) resides in London, England. F. E. LEARMONTH

Dr. Thomas Walker died in his eighty-sixth year at his home in St. John on Christmas morning. Dr. Walker was born in Hampton, Kings County on March 20, 1840. He was the son of Rev. Wm. Williams Walker and Ann Woodward Walker. He was a descendant on the paternal side of Elizabeth Yates, a sister of the famous Pendrall brothers who were instrumental in saving the life of King Charles, after the battle of Worcester. The king was so grateful for this service that he pensioned the heirs of his benefactors for all time. This pension, Dr. Walker was receiving up to the time of his death.

Dr. Walker's early education began in the Kings County Grammar School; subsequently he took his B. A. degree at King's College at Fredericton; he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1863; afterwards taking the license of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England and Scotland in the same year. Dr. Walker was a Mason, a member of St. George's Society and of the Knights of Pythias: He was also past President of the Saint John Medical Society, past President of the Council of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick, past Chairman of the Commission of the General Public Hospital. He served for a number of years as surgeon major of the 62nd regiment. The local press in referring to his death, spoke of him as the "beloved physician."

Dr. John Howard Slayter, died at his home at Grand Pre on the eighth of January. He was a son of the late Dr. William B. Slayter who, for many years, was one of the leading practitioners of Halifax. Dr. Howard Slayter graduated at Edinburgh in 1888, and for some time thereafter practised in Chicago. He returned to Halifax during his father's last illness, and took over his father's practice. After a few years he removed to England, where he was when the war broke out. He immediately accepted military duty, serving in various capacities including a term with the McGill General Hospital. When the war terminated he returned to Nova Scotia and purchased a property near Grand Pre, where he devoted himself almost entirely to non-professional pursuits. Dr. Slayter was a man of sterling character, and many accomplishments, a delightful companion, and much loved by a large circle of friends.

Dr. J. Bryce McMurrich physician of the C.P.R. liner Melita died suddenly on December the 28th. Dr. McMurrich had been threatened for some years with the serious results which might follow diabetes, hypertension and a pyelitis, but had bravely preferred to continue at work though knowing that some such sudden accident as has just happened was to be looked for. Dr. McMurrich graduated from Trinity Medical School faculty in 1896, he practiced medicine in Toronto and in Bothwell, Ontario, being mayor of the latter town for some years. During the great war he saw service with the Canadian Army Corps, and narrowly escaped death at the bombing of the Etaples Hospital. Immediately after the war he was for some years superintendent of the Hospital of St. Anne de Bellevue. After the winding up of many of the military hospitals he was appointed to the medical service of the C. P. R., and proved a popular and efficient medical officer on most of their large liners.

Dr. F. J. Barrick, M.R.C.S. England, and L.R.C.P. London and Edinburgh, died in Toronto early in December. Dr. Barrick took his degree in medicine at Victoria University in 1866 and graduated subsequently at the Toronto Medical School. In his early days he had been a demonstrator of anatomy at the Rolph School of Medicine, and subsequently an examiner in the medical faculty at Victoria University, he was one of the early treasurers of the Ontario Medical Association. Largely as a result of his interest in the prevention of tuberculosis, he was elected president of the American International Congress of Tuberculosis in 1903. He delivered the presidential address at the meeting of this society in 1914, when the meeting took place under the

auspices of the St. Louis World's Fair. For forty three years Dr. Barrick lived and practiced in Toronto but in 1909 he removed from this city to take up special work in Saskatchewan; he returned to Toronto in his 82nd year.

Dr. Francis Fraser Bond, formerly of Toronto, died in Detroit early in December in his 35th year. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Dr. Bond had been practising in Detroit for the past five years.

Dr. Samuel A. Foote of Rosseau, Muskoka, died in Toronto on December the 16th in his 60th year. Graduating from the University of Toronto he had practiced in Rosseau for twenty-five years.

Dr. Hiram Wigle one of the old practitioners of the Bruce Peninsula died in Wiarton on January the 4th. Dr. Wigle graduated from McGill University in 1875 and had practiced in Wiarton for over forty years.

Dr. J. C. C. Grasett died in Simcoe on December the 14th in his 64th year. Dr. Grasett was a graduate of Trinity University in 1887, and had practiced in Simcoe for many years, and where he had acted as medical officer of health for thirty-five years.

Dr. G. O. Baxter died at his home in Saint John early in December. He was one of the older physicians and had enjoyed a large practice in the city and county for a number of years.

Dr. R. S. Minnes died in Ottawa on December the 27th in his 56 year. Dr. Minnes graduated from Queen's University in 1894 and after a post-graduate course in London and Birmingham he began practice in Ottawa in 1898, and was well known throughout the Ottawa Valley as a keen and successful opthalmologist.

Dr. James Third died in Kingston on December the 17th after a long illness. Dr. Third was born 60 years ago at Campbellford and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1891, and was for five years superintendent of the Kingston General Hospital. He was professor of medicine at Queen's University for fourteen years retiring in 1919 owing to failing health. A note of the activities of Dr. Third will appear in a later issue.

Dr. Jonathan McCully an outstanding figure in the history of south Kent died at Cedar Springs on December the 22nd in his 92nd year. A graduate in medicine from Victoria University in 1866, he had practiced medicine for over 50 years. Actively interested in local affairs as well as in medicine Dr. McCully had served as Councillor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve on Harwich Township Council.

Dr. R. Harcourt Anderson, died at the Montreal General Hospital, after a long illness, at the age of fifty-five years. A veteran of the Great War Dr. Anderson saw service in France and Russia as an officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. For the last two years he had been convalescing at the Ste. Anne de Bellevue Hospital, from trouble arising from his overseas service. He had no relatives in Montreal.

Thallium Acetate in Tinea Tonsurans.—C. Felugo (*Rinascenza med.,* October 15th, 1925, p. 470), states that Fiocco was the first to make a systematic use of thallium acetate by mouth in the treatment of ringworm of the scalp owing to the alopecia which it produces. At the suggestion of Professor Renaudi, who had seen the good results obtained by Fiocco, Felugo employed this drug in the treatment of 40 children with trichophytosis of the scalp at the dermatological department of the Civil Hospital at Genoa. The following technique was employed. After the patient had been carefully weighed, the urine tested, and examination had shown that no active disease was present, 8 to 9 mg. of thallium acetate per kilo of body weight was given in a little sugar and water. The results were as follows: Complete alopecia followed in 27 cases; 5 children failed to attend the hospital when it was noticed that their hair was falling out; in 6 the alopecia was only partial; and in 2 the method was a complete failure. None of the cases showed a relapse, and as a general rule the drug was well tolerated. Only 4 patients developed severe abdominal pain and diarrhœa, and 7 had pain in the knees, but the symptoms did not last longer than from one to three days. Repeated examination of the urine showed nothing abnormal except phosphaturia in 6 cases. The loss of hair began on the average ten to fifteen days after administration of the thallium, and was complete on the twenty-fifth day. During this period folliculitis of the scalp often developed, but rapidly subsided under treatment by sulphur or mercury ointment. Felugo concludes that thallium acetate may safely be used in the treatment of ringworm of the scalp and all other diseases in which depilation is necessary. In view of the simplicity of the application and its almost absolute harmlessness it should, he suggests, be the method of choice in the out-of-the-way places where x-ray treatment is impossible.—*Brit. Med. Jour.,* Dec. 16, 1925.