

*Mems. of Public Matters*

or

*Record of A G Malcolm's Life*  
*Written by Himself*

This little work, entitled by the author *Mems. of Public Matters*, bears no signature but Dr H G Calwell, Malcolm's biographer and Honorary Archivist of the Royal Victoria Hospital, who had been given access to many of Malcolm's papers by a family member<sup>1</sup> and who deposited copies of them in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, has called the booklet *Record of A G Malcolm's Life Written by Himself*. It seems not to have been a diary but to have been written all about the same time as, in the original, the years were in chronological order but the months were not always so (corrected in this version).

The last entry was for June 1856 and as he was then ill with rheumatic heart disease<sup>2</sup> and as he and his wife were expecting their first child,<sup>3</sup> it is not surprising that he should have wanted to record for posterity the significant events in his life.

With thanks to the Deputy Keeper of the Records of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, for kind permission to reproduce the contents of the booklet numbered D3784/2/2.

**1842**

August

Obtained Degree of M.D. Edinburgh.  
Obtained one of the three Gold Medals.  
Obtained Diploma of Royal College of Surgeons.  
Opened Extern Department at the General Hospital.  
Appointed District Attendant New Lodge Road Locality.

December [Actually 7 November]

Elected Member of Medical Society.

**1843**

Attended Whitehouse Dispensary for Dr M<sup>c</sup>Mechan 4 months.  
Acted as House Surgeon at General Hospital in place of Mr. Lamont.  
Wrote paper on amount of Carbonic acid expired in Typhus for Edinburgh Monthly.<sup>4</sup>

**1844**

Appointed Medical Examiner of Scottish Provident Institution.  
Acted as House Surgeon General Hospital 1 month.

**1845**

April

Elected Physician to Hospital.  
Commenced with Drs. Moffet and Browne Agitation for Dispensary Reform.

August

Instituted the Pathological Museum in connection with the Medical Society.

October

Appointed Unsolicited Secretary to the Baths and Washhouses Committee.

**1846**

January

Magazine for the Working Classes started.  
Elected Member of Dispensary Committee.

February

Elected Dispensary Attendant under New Regulations.  
Founded the Belfast Working Classes Association.

March

Travelled in England to inspect the Bathing places etc. for the Committee of the Baths and Workhouses.

May

Baths and Washhouses opened.  
General Meeting of Hospital Subscribers.—Read Medical Report.

June

Peoples Cheap Reading Room opened.  
The Dispensary agitation ended in the public recognition of Dispensary Attendants claims—new Constitution adopted. Salary £50 per annum.  
Subscribed to Sydenham Society.  
Appointed Inspector of Steamers to Glasgow and Liverpool.

**1847**

June

Introduced plan of ventilating Hospital during the press of Fever.

August

General Meeting of Baths and Washhouses. Read Report.

<sup>1</sup> Miss M H Malcolm, his great-niece.

<sup>2</sup> Malcolm died on 19 September 1856.

<sup>3</sup> A son, also Andrew George Malcolm, was born on 30 August 1856 and died on the 13 February 1857.

<sup>4</sup> *London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, 1843, page 1.

September  
Introduced new plan of Water Closets and Sewage Pipe into General Hospital plan of Mr. Rowan.  
Received £48 from Board of Health for attendance on Fever.

#### 1848

March  
Founded with Dr. Browne etc. the Belfast Sanitary Committee.  
Prepared Sanitary Report of the Town.

April  
Appointed Medical Examiner of Royal Insurance Co.  
Elected "Officer of Health".

May  
Annual Meeting of Bath and Washhouses. Read Report.

July  
Revived The Belfast Cutaneous Institution.

November  
General Meeting of Hospital. Read Circular Report.

December  
Opened revived Extern Department for the Treatment of Injuries and Cutaneous Diseases and Affections of Children at the General Hospital. This department had been closed 2 years.

#### 1849

January  
Initiated Special Lectures at the General Hospital.

March  
Annual Sanitary Meeting. Read First Report.  
Appointed Member of Baths Committee.

April  
Annual Meeting of General Hospital. Committee Report.  
Elected Physician under new regulations—and won the largest number of votes.  
Commenced Hospital Reports for Medical Times.

May  
Presided at Annual Meeting of Northern Sunday School Association.  
Received £28.16.10 from the Poor Law Guardians for attendance on Cholera cases in General Hospital.  
Appointed Medical Officer to Falls Foundry Benefit Society.

November  
Purchased large collection of Thibert's Wax Models of Cutaneous Disease for about £15.

#### 1850

January  
Delivered a full Course of Lectures on Cutaneous Disease at the Hospital (2<sup>nd</sup>. Course).

March  
Read 2<sup>nd</sup>. Report of Sanitary Committee.

May  
Commenced a Course on Diagnosis—(1<sup>st</sup>. half 12 lectures) at Fever Hospital.

June  
Presided at Annual Dinner of Medical Society.

August  
Got a Consignment of Pathological Museum from Edinburgh—Professor Lizar's. By a Ballot had most of it secured to the Medical Society and put properly up in a suitable room adjoining the Theatre of the Hospital.  
Purchased a Microscope from Messrs Smith and Beck, London—price £12 odd.

September  
Commenced a Subscription to liquidate Debt of the Working Classes Association with the co-operation of Messrs. W. Coates, W. xx, G.K. Smith, J. Simms, I. Campbell, etc., etc. Debt is £440 odd of which £380 due me, and £33 for debts unsettled.

October  
Purchased a Daguerreotype apparatus and had John McCann taught to use it. Paid £15 to take a series of Portraits of Disease.

November 4  
Elected one of the two Vice-presidents of the Belfast Medical Society.

#### 1851

February  
Got up a Course of 10 Lectures at the Working Classes Association by Messrs Browne, Johnston, McAdam, Patterson, Knox, O Clenenshaw, Steen, and self.  
Commenced writing for the Dublin Quarterly.

April  
Delivered 2 Lectures on Respiration to the Working Classes Association.

May  
Elected a second time one of the Vice-Presidents of the Medical Society.  
Commenced a Course on Practical Diagnosis at the General Hospital. Full course—see Card.

July  
Sent Paper on Clinical Instruction in Hospitals to Dublin Medical Press.

July 29  
Delivered a Lecture at Whitehouse on "Animal Heat," to the Working Classes.

August  
Wrote Review of "Beale's Laws of Health" for Dublin Quarterly.  
Continued General Hospital Reports in Medical Times.

September 4  
Completed a Quarto work on the History of the General Hospital and other Medical Institutions of Belfast etc. Price 2/6.

November  
This Session (1851.2) carried out a regular system of practical Clinical Teaching in the Wards; by

practically explaining all matters connected to each Case and supplying Pathology Cards in illustration.

Put up a steam bath for Scalp-Diseases which (December) works well at the General Hospital.

November 27

Delivered a popular Lecture on the Structure and Uses of the Lungs at Banbridge.

December

Joined Professor Hancock and others in the formation of the "Belfast Statistical Society."

December 16th

Received a Present of a Gold Watch from Miss Montgomery, Queen Street, Belfast.

## 1852

January

3<sup>rd</sup>. Course of Lectures on Cutaneous Diseases. Charge Pupils 10/6. 16 Lectures. See Syllabus.

February

Wrote Review on Rowland's work on Softening of the Brain. See Dublin Quarterly.

May

Commenced 3<sup>rd</sup>. Course of Lectures on Practical Diagnosis at Hospital (see Syllabus). Pupils paid 2/6 for expenses.

Wrote Review on Neligan's work on Diseases of the Skin for Dublin Quarterly.

May 3

Elected for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Time Vice-President of Medical Society.

September

Read a Paper on the Sanitary Conditions of Belfast etc. before the Statistical Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science which was published by request.

Examined Pupils on Cases by printed Queries.

Went to London for benefiting Health. Stayed 3 weeks.

September

October

Wrote Letters in "Mercury" on the Hospital and Sanitary Matters.

September

October

November

Originated an Inquiry into the Nature and Treatment of the Epidemic Dysentery of Autumn 1852 which was warmly supported. This was published in Dublin Quarterly Journal.<sup>1</sup>

November

Delivered the Introductory Address to the Pupils of the General Hospital on the occasion of the opening of the Session 1852.3 which was published.

Commenced issuing Diagrams to Pupils.

Commenced a Course of Demonstrations at the Hospital. Entrance 5/-. (See Prospectus and Syllabus.)

December

Extern Department for Treatment of Cutaneous and Children's Diseases re-opened at the Hospital. £20 per annum granted by Committee.

## 1853

February

Continued Pathological Reports in Dublin Quarterly.

4<sup>th</sup>. Course of Lectures on Diseases of the Skin.

Got up a course of 18 Lectures at the Working Classes Association.

May

Delivered Lectures on Diet at Belfast, Holywood and Lurgan.

Wrote out report on Epidemic Dysentery of 1852. Had 150 copies published by direction of Committee.

August

Got Type for J McCann and [Brother?].

Several German and French Pathology and Physics works purchased.

Continued "Difficulties in Diagnosis."

Wrote review of "Ansell on Tuberculosis."

Commenced series of experiments on "Carbonic acid expired in Phthisis."

Commenced preliminary meeting for the formation of the Clinical and Pathological Society.

Commenced furnishing for the *Mercury* copy for the "Medical News" department. This was for [6 xx?] weeks—became drudgery and interfered with [major?] commissions.

September

Clinical and Pathological Society formed. Every promise of success. 90 members eventually.

Wrote letter in Whig and Mercury on Hospital.

September 2

[Clinical and Pathological Society] duly formed and 34 members. Acted Secretary.

October

Went to Chester and London. 10 days.

Appointed Medical Advisor to "The Minerva Company".

## 1854

January

Delivered lecture at Ballinahinch on "The Great Epidemics".

February 15

John McCann leaves my service.

February 16

An important event.

March 22

My mother died at 8am, being 10<sup>th</sup>. day of an attack of dysentery.

<sup>1</sup> Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science, 1853, v16, p81.

June 27  
Married M. G. Home. Went to London for 3 weeks.

September  
Began to publish Transactions of Pathological Society. 96 members.

October 4  
Delivered lecture at Newtownards on "The Great Epidemics".

November  
Published paper on "The Proportion of :C in Phthisis" in Dublin Quarterly.<sup>1</sup>  
Portion of Pupils' fees appropriated to Medical Staff on proposition of Professor Ferguson.

December  
Class of Pathological Anatomy at Hospital.  
Reviewed several works in Dublin Quarterly this year.

### 1855

February  
Elected Honorary Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Cork.  
Course of lectures and demonstrations on Diseases of the Skin.  
Wrote review of Watson on Surgery.

March  
Commenced inquiry into physical influence of mill-life.  
Appointed Medical Advisor of "The Crown" and "Standard Assurance" companies, previously of "The Minerva"—"Scottish Provident"—"Royal".

April  
Wrote reviewing Jones and Sieveking: Pathological Anatomy.

May  
Elected President of the Belfast Clinical and Pathological Society.  
Elected Corresponding Member of the Manchester Medico-ethical Association.

[May?]  
Got up the new arrangements at the Lying-In Hospital. Appointed Surgeon and Registrar the Medical Staff.  
Commenced Courses and Lectures on Diseases of Women and Children.

September 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Read a paper before Statistical Section of British Association at Glasgow on the Influences of Factory Life as Affecting Health.

November  
Commenced a work, to be published in Parts, entitled "Introduction to Clinical Study on the Medical Wards", being assembly of papers on Practical Diagnosis etc., designed expressly for the use of Medical Students.  
Course of lectures on Pathological Anatomy resumed at General Hospital.

December 26  
My brother James died at Christchurch after 4 days illness. Congestion of brain and fever after Scarlatina [sore?] throat.

### 1856

January  
Reviewed Budd on Stomach. Heller on Urine.

February  
Course of Lectures on Diseases of the skin.

April 30  
Delivered closing address of the session as President of the Clinico-pathological Society.

June  
Received sanction of College to deliver a Course of Lectures on the "Institutes of Medicine" next Winter to include general physiology and Pathology—3 times weekly during session of 6 months.  
Paper on Factory Life published in London Statistical Journal. 24 copies received.

### September 19 [in a different hand]

Hath closed all his labours in this world.

### Compiler's Note.

Item D3784/2/2 in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland is bound in cardboard and the pages are photocopies. The whereabouts of the originals is unknown. Inside the front cover is a sticker bearing the late Dr H G Calwell's name and address.

J I Logan  
14 June 2019

<sup>1</sup> *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*, 1854, v18, p320. Full title "The Proportion of Carbonic Acid exhaled in Phthisis Pulmonalis".