

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

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President—JOHN FAGAN, F.R.C.S.I.

Hon. Secretary—WILLIAM G. MACKENZIE, L.R.C.P. & S. Edin.

Thursday, January 8, 1885. The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Early History of Medicine in Belfast.

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THE first mention of medicine and medical men in the history of Belfast is during a period of political repose. The Clan O'Neill had lost its power for the time. Sir Arthur Chichester had obtained a grant of Belfast in fee. Cromwell had implanted his rule in the land.

Ireland was divided into fifteen precincts, of which Belfast, with the three counties of Antrim, Down, and Armagh, formed one. Each precinct was put in charge of Commissioners with large powers, but on matters medical these Commissioners seem to have been in difficulties, and in reply to inquiries they are informed on 22nd September, 1651, that " If there be want of a doctor or apothecary amongst you, and you can find fit and able persons for that purpose, we leave to you the choice of them, and the granting of their salaries, only limiting you in this, that you exceed not £100 yearly to the doctor, nor £50 yearly to your apothecary."

The next mention of the healing art is amid the din of war and the carnage of contending armies.

Schomberg had landed 10,000 men at Bangor on 13th August, 1689, and William and Mary had just been proclaimed in Belfast, through which James's troops had recently marched.

This town became winter quarters in 1689 for the army which had been at Dundalk on duty.

Thomas Pottinger, the Governor, asserts that, at his own expense, he furnished a hospital and storehouse for the men on their return to winter quarters, and here the sick were attended to during the early months of 1690, and prepared for the deadly conflict in which they were so soon to be engaged on the banks of the Boyne.

The mortality at this *great* hospital, as it is termed, is almost incredible. Dr. Lawrence was despatched from the camp to take charge of

the sick, of whom, from Nov. 1st, 1689, till May 1st, 1690, 3,762 men died. The townspeople seem also to have suffered greatly. Ten or a dozen funerals of the residents passed through the streets in little more than an hour ; yet at this time the town was only a cluster of thatched cabins.

The sanitary laws in force at this date are—

" No one to make dunghills to continue longer than three days in the open street before the door, or throw carrion, dying stuff, or any loathsome thing into the river, under a penalty of 5s."

" Complaints are made that great annoyance is caused by butchers suffering the blood and garbage of their slaughter-houses to lie in the street, and run in the kennels and ditches of the town, to the corruption of the river and annoyance of the neighbours, by reason of the evil and infectious smells; and it is ordered by the authorities that all blood and garbage be carried twenty yards beyond high-water mark, under a penalty of 20s."

Medical matters do not bulk largely in the records of the town at this period. Only after the establishment of the *News-Letter*, in 1737, can we trace medical history; and where matters medical *are* referred to, they are generally more amusing than instructive.

Medical men took good rank in the town about the end of the 17th century. In the funeral procession of the first Earl of Donegall, following the servants, mourning horse, and pennon, come the gentlemen, esquires, and then the " physicians," with knights, baronets, barons, viscounts, and earls next in order. The mantle, helm, and crest were borne by Mr. Tooley later in the procession, the same Mr. John Tooley being a " Chirurgeon."

The leading medical practitioner of the 17th century was Dr. Hugh Kennedy, who had been physician to the Earl of Donegall, from whom he received a legacy.

Dr. John Peacock was another important medical man; and, although he delayed the execution of his will till death overtook him, he had told his friend that he thought he had £500, which he directed to be divided among his three children, and that his eldest son should be bred a physician.

Dr. Alexander was a practitioner of some reputation at the beginning of the 18th century. At his funeral no less than nineteen " *cloakes*" were hired, according to the prevailing custom at the time; the large number indicated the respect in which the deceased was held.

In 1726 Dr. James Macartney was chosen "sovereign" of Belfast.

Towards the end of the 18th century several of the medical men of the town take a most prominent place in matters both civil and medical.

Dr. Marriot, who was a poet, entered the literary arena on behalf of the people. A few lines will indicate the spirit in which he wrote:—

" Of ancient tenants, the industrious race
Strongly attached to their forefathers' place,
Who, just to live and pay their Lord, make shift—
Now the unfeeling heart can turn adrift.
What are the crimes that to their charge you lay ?
Fines you demand, and fines they cannot pay.
To crown the whole—each must his farm resign
Or tender down a most enormous fine ;
Some of the tenants still remain that feel
Their wrongs, and can resist with Hearts of Steel."

This was one of the " Hearts of Steel" ballads.

Of the political writers of that period Dr. William Drennan was the ablest and best known. He was born in 1754, and was the son of Rev. Thomas Drennan, Presbyterian Minister, of Rosemary-street. After finishing his medical education, Dr. Drennan settled first in Newry, but soon removed to Dublin, After a long residence in the metropolis he came to his native town in 1807, but seems to have given himself more to public matters than to the practice of his profession—perhaps he was one of those rare men who could make both pay. His ballads are published in a collected form. In 1794 he was tried for a seditious libel and acquitted. During his residence in Belfast, Dr. Drennan was closely connected with every movement of a patriotic, benevolent, or educational character. He died in 1820, much lamented by a large circle of friends. Prominent on his tomb stands the word " Patriot."

Dr. Haliday was also, like Dr. Drennan, son of a Presbyterian Minister, of Rosemary-street, and was one of the best known literary men, as well as the most eminent physician of his time. He wrote a tragedy and many poetical pieces. He was the intimate friend of Dr. Drennan, and associated with persons of the highest rank in the country. Lord Charlemont, the Revising-General, always stopped at Dr. Haliday's when in Belfast. He was a prominent political figure, and unquestionably the most important factor in connexion with the "Hearts of Steel" movement. His private benevolence, liberal-mindedness, and genial disposition were widely known.

Dr. Drennan wrote to a friend asking what spiritual consolation Haliday had at his death. The answer is—"Three nights before he died Bruce and I played cards with him, and the very night that was his last he played out the rubber. ' Now,' said he, ' the game is finished, and the last act near a close.' He was helped to bed, spoke comforting words to his wife—and the rest you know."

Part of his last Will and Testament is so curious that I am tempted to quote it:—" I leave my wife a legacy of £100 by way of atonement for the many unmerciful scolds I have thrown awny upon her at the whist table, and I further bequeath to my dear wife the sum of £500 in gratitude for her having never given me, on any other occasion from her early

youth till this hour, any just cause to rebuke or complain of her; and I further leave to my said dear wife a further sum of £100 as an acknowledgment of her goodness in devoting an hour or two every evening, which she could have so much better employed, to amuse me with a game at picket, when we happened to be alone, after my decaying eyesight would no longer enable me to read or write much by candlelight."

Dr. Haliday's principles were those of civil and religious liberty. He was a man admired, honoured, and beloved.

Dr. Joseph Black, of the Edinburgh University, an eminent chemist and philosopher of the last century, was son of Mr. John Black, merchant, Belfast.

The memoirs of three eminent physicians who began practice in the last century have been so well recorded by the late Dr. C. D. Purdon that I will largely use his words in referring to them.

Dr. James M'Donnell, a learned and deeply read physician, one of the M'Donnells of the Glens, was born in the year 1762, near Cushendall. He studied in Edinburgh, where he took his degree in 1784. He soon settled in Belfast, where he obtained a large practice. He cultivated a taste for literature and formed a valuable library. Many of his books were presents from grateful patients; amongst others the Marchioness of Londonderry presented him with a volume, on account of valuable advice in a recommendation to nurse her own children—thereby discouraging the pernicious custom of employing wet nurses.

He also formed a Museum of Natural History, and, in addition to giving much of his time to the poor, assisted Dr. Stephenson in forming a Fever Hospital and Dispensary.

He was the first to originate clinical instruction in the hospital in 1827. His appearance was well known to all, as he always dressed in drab-coloured knee breeches and white stockings.

When driving he might be seen sitting beside his servant, "Mike," reading a book through a magnifying glass. Mike was as well known as the doctor, and indeed always considered himself as the doctor's joint-partner; at any rate, he saved a matter of £1,100 while in the doctor's employment, with which he purchased a property in his native glens, where, in advanced life, he doctored his bucolic neighbours from old prescriptions of his master's which he had secured, and marked as *good* for certain complaints.

In 1828 Dr. M'Donnell was presented with a service of plate, value £700, by the nobility, ladies, and gentlemen of Belfast and its vicinity, as a tribute of their respect and esteem, and as an acknowledgment of his exertions on behalf of humanity, and his success in establishing the Fever Hospital and Dispensary. His son, Dr. John M'Donnell, of Dublin gives a most interesting record of his father. He says that his father used to visit his grandmother at Cushendall regularly once a fortnight

He left home at midnight, found a fresh horse at Glenarm, spent some hours lying on a sofa talking to his mother, and rode back to Belfast within the twenty-four hours—a ride of about 120 English miles. He died in 1845, in his 82nd year.

Dr. S. S. Stephenson, an eminent and most honourable physician, practised in this town in the latter part of the last century, and in the beginning of the present. In him was an illustration of how a man could change the current of great talents into a different groove from that in which, for a considerable portion of his life, they had been employed. He was educated for the ministry, preached first in Templepatrick, and was soon called to Greyabbey, where he laboured for several years with much acceptance. He employed his leisure time in the study of Archæology, and was esteemed a man of great learning and research.

Differing from the Synod of Ulster on theological matters, he resigned his charge, and in middle life went to Glasgow to study medicine. He took out his degree in the University, and came to Belfast, which at that time was a town of 17,000 inhabitants.

Dr. Stephenson soon obtained a foremost position in the profession and, in conjunction with Dr. M'Donnell, succeeded in establishing a dispensary, thereby relieving the Belfast Charitable Society of outdoor patients. Of the first sixty patients he attended in the Fever Hospital only one died. His reputation was established as a fever doctor—the first fever doctor in the town. Born, 1737; died, 1830; aged 93 years.

Dr. Forsythe was born at Ballynure in 1756 ; was educated at a country school, subsequently at Edinburgh University, where he took his degree. He commenced practice in Newtownards, but soon after removed to Belfast.

He seems to have been a rolling-stone, for he tried his fortunes in England, having succeeded in establishing two practices there, in which he amassed a considerable fortune. With this he returned to Belfast, and entered into partnership with Dr. Thompson. The partnership was soon dissolved, and he is next found engaged in mercantile transactions and speculations. He thoroughly understood human nature, and read his patients through and through.

He was tall and well proportioned, and his appearance commanded respect. He was a great politician, but would argue on either side of a question. When he retired from active practice he selected Holywood as the best locality for prolonging life, and whether to this or something else may be attributed the result, it was, however, attained, for he died at the age of 94 years.

So much for the medical men of the profession during the past century ; and now we shall notice the medical charities in the order of their appearing.

The Belfast Charitable Society originated in an effort made in 1752 "to grant support to vast numbers of real objects of charity, for the employment of idle beggars, and for the reception of infirm and diseased poor." The first money for the purpose was raised by a lottery in 1753, and amounted to £1,736 2s. 4d. ; in 1767 another lottery produced £1,462 14s. 11d., and from other sources the amount was made up to £7,592. In 1768 the Poorhouse scheme was assuming a substantial form when Lord Donegall granted the present site, about 8 acres, at a rent of some £8 a year. Subsequent grants of lands were obtained, making in all about 19 acres, for which a sum of £12 a year is paid. Much of this land is let for building ground, and is producing a large income.

The Society is also in receipt of £800 a year from the Water Commissioners ; the right of supplying the town with water, having been also a grant, was held by the charity, and sold for the sum named. About a century ago all beggars were relieved by the Society; and a curious custom prevailed of granting licences to deserving poor persons to beg for a limited time. Poor beggars without such licence were punished, and men were employed to bring up such beggars as were found without a licence. Some curious entries are on the books.

One Dudley, a bang beggar, gets 1s. 1d. for bringing up a beggar ; and in 1775 a notice appears offering 5s. 5d. for every beggar brought up after next Saturday. Balls were held monthly in the house for the benefit of the charity ; tickets, 3s. 3d. Volunteers were exercised in the grounds ; and a proposal was made to charge 2d. each to the inhabitants for liberty to wander through this delightful retreat, and relax themselves. By these means £250 per annum was added to the funds. The present income is about £3,000 per annum, and the number of inmates about 160.

For many years children were taken in and cared for, but as it was considered that the original object of the charity was to provide for old infirm, poor, but respectable inmates, the children's department was closed, and the whole house set apart for old residents of the town.

In this house cotton-spinning was first introduced in the North of Ireland; and here, also, vaccination was first practised by Dr. Haliday in 1800. Dr. Drennan had, however, tried inoculation in 1782. In the early days wards were set apart for lunatics; there were also a lock ward and a reformatory in connexion with the building.

Belfast Dispensary.—Previous to 1792 the Charitable Society was the only agency for poor relief and the treatment of disease, but the stringent regulations of the Society and the growing wants of the town led the benevolent public and the medical men to form another and a more general charity, which was called the General Dispensary. Dr. M'Donnell, who seems to have been the leading spirit of his age, entered

upon this scheme with all his zeal, and carried it on to vigorous maturity.

The medical staff consisted of:—Consulting Physicians, Dr. Haliday and Dr. Mattear; Attending Physicians, Dr. M'Donnell and Dr. White; Attending Surgeons, Mr. Fuller and Mr. M'Clelland. They had also an apothecary; and a house was rented in West-street, Smithfield.

Lying-in Hospital.—This charity seems to have been an outcome of the dispensary. It was established 1794, and first commenced in a modest way by renting No. 25, Donegall-street, at 12 guineas a year. The object of the charity was the relief of poor married women in their confinement. Three years after its origin a new branch was added, and for some years about twenty orphan girls were educated by means of funds saved from the working of the charity. This branch was abandoned, however, for another—namely, to attend women at their own homes, and for a time this practice was carried out. In 1830 the present building was erected on ground obtained from the Charitable Society; cost, £1,200. The medical practitioners of the town have at all times given their services here, as elsewhere, without fee or reward; and medical students have been admitted for many years—their fee going to the funds of the charity.

Fever Hospital.—In the Calendar of 1797, April 27th, stands this entry:—"The first hospital in Ireland for fever opened with six beds in Factory-row, Belfast."

The origin of the hospital was brought about by a variety of circumstances. The year was ushered in by a number of arrests for high treason; the country was in a most disturbed state; the French had landed in Bantry Bay; fever was appearing in many parts of the country; owing to political excitement, the collections for the dispensary dwindled; meetings were held which were poorly attended; but ultimately a house was taken in Factory-row, at £20 a-year, six bedsteads were ordered, and a nurse appointed.

On the 4th May, 1797, Dr. Stephenson and Dr. M'Donnell, as physicians, entered upon the medical duties of what turned out to be the small beginning of the present Royal Hospital.

During the remainder of that year the first sixty patients were treated, of whom only one died. An arrangement was entered into with the Charitable Society, by which fever patients were admitted from the latter charity, they on their part providing medicines, &c. At the end of about two years the charity seems to have fallen into disuse, for in 1799 it was revived, and a new house was taken in West-street, Smith-field, and a resolution come to that in future the committee should be summoned only on Sundays, at two o'clock, in order to secure a good attendance.

In March, 1800, Mr. Fuller, one of the original surgeons, died, and a

ballot was taken to decide which of three surgeons applying should be elected. Mr. M'Cluney was chosen. During the early years of the century frequent appeals were made to the public for funds, and various means were resorted to in order to keep the charity out of debt. Sunday sermons were commenced. The Second Presbyterian Congregation raised in 1806 £137.

From 1808 the Grand Jury of County Antrim presented sums equal to that raised by private subscription, and from 1817 an Act of Parliament enabled them to grant up to £500 per annum to fever hospitals. In 1817 the hospital was removed to its present site in Frederick-street, when the number of its medical staff was increased to four physicians and four surgeons.

The Belfast Medical Society.—In 1806 there were nineteen physicians and surgeons practising in Belfast, which had then a population of 22,000, and in that year was formed the first medical association under the above designation. The annual subscription was fixed at a guinea. A committee of six was appointed to manage the business, purchase books, &c. As this was the parent of the present Society, the names of the office-bearers may be mentioned :—S. S. Thompson, M.D., President; William Halliday, M.D.; William Drennan, M.D.; Robert Magee, M.D.; Robert M'Cluney, Surgeon; Andrew Marshall, Surgeon, Secretary and Treasurer. The Society continued up till 1814, having for its Presidents Drs. Halliday, Thompson, Drennan, and M'Cluney. For some years subsequent to 1814 the affairs of the Society were neglected, but, owing to the exertions of Dr. R. Stephenson, the Society was revived in 1822, and from that date we have a complete list of its membership. The leading names in connexion with the revived Society were Dr. Forcade, Dr. M'Donnell, and Dr. Halliday, with Mr. Moore, R.N., Mr. Bryson, and Mr. M'Cleery. With the experience of the past as to the liability of such a Society to lapse from lack of interest, it was proposed in 1825 to add a rule, which is still in force, and which has been, perhaps, one of the main factors in the success of the Society, and that was, that after twenty years' uninterrupted payment of subscriptions the member should be exempted for life from annual contributions.

One of the first objects the Society had in view was to procure new and expensive medical books, the purchase of which was usually beyond the reach of the majority of the profession.

Topics of local and general medical interest were introduced and discussed, such as the Medical Reform question of 1841, and the Medical Benevolent Fund Society of 1843, and, again, the Medical Reform Bill of Sir James Graham in 1845.

Medico-ethical points were also taken up and discussed, and on the question of the Irish Medical Charities the Society had a good deal to say. For twenty-two years the Society had been proceeding on the lines

indicated, and only in 1844 were papers read on medical subjects, and medical and surgical cases introduced.

In 1845 the practice was sanctioned of introducing pathological specimens at the meetings, and afterwards preserving them in a museum under the direction of the Society.

A curious custom prevailed during the early years of the Society of electing as chairman the fifth member who entered the meeting. In 1844 a library committee was elected, and in 1850 the office-bearers were increased to the present number—viz., President, two Vice-Presidents, six members of Council, with a Secretary and Treasurer.

From 1850 the Presidents of the Society were the following:—Dr. Stephenson (three years in succession), Dr. M'Gee, Dr. Thomas Reade, Dr. Murney, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Stewart, Dr. Browne, Dr. Pirrie, Dr. Patterson, Dr. Cuming, and Dr. W. MacCormac.

The present rules of the Society are based on those of 1822, and the code of medical ethics published with the "Transactions" in 1879 is nearly the same as those drawn up by the fathers of the profession.

Medical Protection Society.—For some years, between 1850 and 1860, a Medical Protection Society existed, having for its President Dr. M'Gee, J.P., and Dr. S. Browne, R.N., Secretary. The object of the Society is clearly indicated by its title.

Belfast Clinical and Pathological Society.—Although I have been unable to lay my hands on the minute-book of the Clinical and Pathological Society, I have been able to collect the following facts from the printed reports of the Society's Transactions, and also from some of the original members who are still in our midst.

The Society was originated on the 2nd of September, 1853, with 49 members. During the following year 47 new members joined the Society, and in 1856 I find 109 members on the books, about half the number being from the country towns. The meetings were held every Saturday, at 3 o'clock, at the General Hospital. One of the main objects of the Society was the formation of a museum, and during the first session thirty-four donations were received.

I am enabled, from these old records, to lay before you a catalogue of the museum, with the names of the donors. The originator of the Society was Dr. Malcolm, who was also the largest donor, and one of the most liberal contributors to the ordinary work of the Society. Dr. T. II. Purdon was the first President, Dr. Halliday, Treasurer, and Drs. A. G. Malcolm and G. F. Wales, General Secretaries. The second President was Professor Ferguson, and in subsequent years the chair was filled by Dr. Cuming, Dr. Malcolm, Dr. Samuel Brown, R.N., Dr. Reid, Dr. Gordon, and Dr. James Moore.

This Society continued its operations till 1862, when its amalgamation with the Belfast Medical Society resulted in the Ulster Medical Society.

Dr. Malcolm.—Andrew George Malcolm, M.D., was born in Newry in 1818. His father was the Rev. Dr. Malcolm, the Presbyterian Minister of Dunmurray, and subsequently of Newry, where he died. After his demise the family removed to Belfast, and at the Royal Academical Institution Dr. Malcolm received his education. He graduated in Edinburgh in 1842, where he took a gold medal for an able treatise on "Fever." He commenced practice in this town, and soon became connected with the General Hospital. I may add that the qualification for becoming connected with the General Hospital in those days was a gratuitous attendance on the poor for two years.

He was a constant contributor to the various medical periodicals, but his *opus magnum* was the history of the Medical Institutions of Belfast, which is a work evincing great research. It is compiled in a most systematic manner. It was written for a *fete* which took place on the Queen's Island, and with the object of giving a more general interest in the institutions of the town, especially the hospital.

Dr. Malcolm was President of the Belfast Working Class Association, which had for its object "the advancement of such measures as may conduce to the physical, intellectual, and moral improvement of the working classes." For this Society he wrote, and on its behalf delivered public lectures

He was the founder of the Clinical and Pathological Society, and was its President at the time of his death. His last public appearance was at a *conversazione* of this Society in the Corn Exchange, at which most of the principal residents of the town were present. His herculean labours in connexion with the Society are recorded in the "Transactions," and his contributions to the museum are to be seen in our Pathological Rooms, most of the prepared specimens and the photographs being his gifts. In the year of his death the Society numbered over 100 members. In August, 1856, he was in delicate health and went for a change to Dublin, where he terminated a short, brilliant, and promising career at the early age of thirty-eight years.

Dr. J. S. Drennan, who was a fellow-worker, and who still remains as one of our Life Members, wrote of him :—

" In mid course of a sublime career
An active votary of virtue falls.
Such Malcolm was—he scorned the level way,
And followed duty up her heavenward hill ;
Steadily working while it yet was day,
The sudden night fell on him working still."

Dr. J. M. Sanders.—I am enabled, through the kindness of Professor Dill, to present the Society with a portrait of a young and popular physician who practised during the beginning of the present century. It was said at the time of his death, that perhaps never before, in the short

space of eleven years, had any professional man attained so high a place in the public confidence and esteem.

Born on April 24th, 1814, before he was four years of age he had lost both his parents, when a paternal uncle and aunt adopted him, and became responsible for his education and training. He was first at school in Glasgow, but at twelve years of age removed with his relatives to Belfast, and became a pupil in the Royal Academical Institution, where he continued till 1830. Having made choice of medicine as a profession, he studied in Dublin, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. He graduated in the University of the latter place in 1835, and at once commenced to practise in Belfast.

Dr. Sanders had a delicate constitution and a sanguine temperament. These factors, added to hard work in an increasing practice, told upon his frame, and in 1846, at the early age of thirty-two, while in the bloom of youth and with all the aspirations of rising fame, he was removed by death from the midst of a large circle of admiring friends. He had been elected Surgeon to the General Hospital, where he distinguished himself as a brilliant operator.

His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Morgan, from the text—"The beloved physician."

Dr. S. S. Thompson was one of the best known and most prominent members of the medical profession in Belfast for a quarter of a century. He was the son of an eminent physician in Coleraine; and, after taking his degree, Dr. Thompson commenced to practise in Magherafelt, but soon moved to Belfast, where he became connected with the General Hospital. Here he continued his services for twenty-five years. He was also Physician to the Lunatic Asylum for some time before his death. Few men were ever more truly loved and honoured by his fellow-townsmen than Dr. Thompson. By the members of his own profession he was idolised for the possession, in an eminent degree, of all those qualities which can attract and attach. In all public matters he was a prominent leader, and he was also a warm supporter of every public charity. As a platform speaker Dr. Thompson was always acceptable and graceful. In private society he was the delight of his friends, as he was a musician of a very high order of talent. He died of bronchitis, at his residence, Castle-street, on April 29, 1849, in his 72nd year. A bust of Dr. Thompson adorns the Pathological Rooms of this Society.

Medical Education in Belfast.—Previous to the establishment of the Royal Academical Institution in 1814, and the opening of the General Hospital to medical students in 1827, medical students from the North of Ireland obtained their qualifications in either Dublin, Glasgow, or Edinburgh.

For some years before the Queen's College was opened medical subjects were taught in connexion with the R. A. Institution, the teachers in the

several departments being transferred, in most cases, to the Queen's College as Professors.

In 1849 the Queen's College was opened "for the better advancement of learning among all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland." The first Professors in the Medical School were—Hugh Carlisle, M.D., Anatomy and Physiology; John C. Ferguson, M.A., M.B., Medicine; Alexander Gordon, M.D., Surgery; Horatio Stewart, M.D., Materia Medica; William Burden, M.D., Midwifery; Thomas Andrews, M.D., Chemistry. The Chair of Anatomy and Physiology is now occupied by Professor Redfern, the Chair of Medicine by Professor Cuming, the Chair of Midwifery by Professor Dill, and that of Materia Medica by Professor J. Seaton Reid. Dr. Andrews has resigned his appointment as Professor of Chemistry and Vice-President of the College, but is still a Life Member of this Society, and one of the most brilliant ornaments of his profession. Dr. Gordon retains his original appointment, and long may he continue to do so.

The influence of the Queen's College—on education generally in the North, but especially on medical education—has been very generally felt and recognised. The College was opened in 1849, and the first degrees conferred in 1851. On that occasion six of the first students obtained the M.D. degree, among them being two of our ex-Presidents—Dr. John Moore and Dr. Thomas Kennedy Wheeler. Altogether about 500 students in medicine of the Belfast College have graduated in the Queen's and Royal University during the thirty-three years of its existence, besides a large number who have obtained diplomas in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, and London.

At present the Royal Hospital is doing good work in offering means of instruction to students, and so, also, are the Ulster Hospital for Women and Children, the Belfast Hospital for Children, and the Eye and Ear and Skin Hospital.

The Belfast medical graduates have taken a foremost place in all the competitive examinations in the kingdom, and are found occupying posts of honour and distinction in almost every University, and certainly in every country where Her Majesty's Union Jack floats over a free and independent people.

This scattered and curtailed narrative of men and events brings us down to the origin of this Society in 1862.

We reserve for another paper the details of the various sessions, when we hope to not only review the principal medical events of the past twenty-two years, but to furnish a portrait of each of the ex-Presidents which shall form a medical portrait gallery, to be handed down to the future generations, in connexion with the records of the Ulster Medical Society.