

which were conspicuous many in the poorest ranks who had derived advantage from his skill as a physician. It has also been exhibited in the successful realisation of a scheme to commemorate his life by a monument to be placed over his grave in the Dean Cemetery, and a bust to be preserved in the University, which have been executed by Mr. Hutchison, R.S.A.

His friends and associates lament the death of a sincere, truthful, and warm friend. His colleagues recognise that the profession of medicine has lost one of its most eminent representatives, an earnest denouncer of abuses, and a powerful advocate for reforms; a man of science, diffident in self-assertion, but influential because of the merits which he himself was slow to assert.

DR. ANDREW WOOD. By Professor Maclagan.

DR. ANDREW WOOD was the representative, in the fourth generation, of a family which for considerably above a century and a half has been identified with the medical profession in Edinburgh, and especially with the Royal College of Surgeons. His great-grandfather, William Wood, entered the college in 1716; his grandfather, Andrew Wood, in 1769; his father, William Wood, in 1805; and he himself in 1831. It does not appear that the first William Wood ever was chosen President of the College, but all his three descendants obtained that honour, two of them being twice elected.

The subject of the present notice was born on 1st September 1810. He was educated at the High School, being, according to the then existing system, four years under Mr. Lindsay, and then two years under the Rector Dr Carson, his place in his last year's class being a high one, and showing that even as a boy he had a taste for the ancient classics which were to him a source of enjoyment to the end of his life. After having gone through the humanity classes he entered upon the study of medicine, and took his degree of M.D. in August 1831, when he was not quite twenty-one years of age, under a custom then in force, which permitted those to receive their degree whose twenty-first birthday occurred before the commencement of another academic session. Very soon after his twenty-first birthday he was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons, his probationary essay being upon

Cataract, a Latin version of it having been presented by him as his thesis to the Medical Faculty of the University. Though without any special predilection for ophthalmology, or indeed for pure surgery in any form, he was probably induced to select this subject for his thesis from his having for some time studied in Dublin, especially under the celebrated oculist Dr. Jacob, of whom frequent mention is made in his probationary essay.

Two circumstances connected with Andrew Wood's earlier professional days call for notice, because they exercised a marked influence on his future career. The first, which belongs to his undergraduate period, was his joining the time-honoured students' institution, the Royal Medical Society. He did not long remain a silent member on its benches, but soon threw himself, with that energy which was part of his nature, into the business of the Society, both private and public, taking a large share in its debates and being a most zealous and valuable business man in its committees. He was a member of that sub-committee of three to whom was entrusted the final revision and correction of the *Catalogue Raisonné* of the Society's valuable library, which was published in 1837. To the Royal Medical Society, Andrew Wood was always ready to assign, as many others have had reason to do, that fluency in speaking and readiness in debate which he afterwards so fully manifested, nor did he forget the benefit which it conferred upon him in giving him the habits of business which he acquired in its finance, library, and other committees. The youth was here truly the father of the man; for to those who were associated with him in those days of youthful activity, it seemed to be only the necessary development of Andrew Wood when he became a leading and influential member of the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom and Chairman of its Business Committee. His fluency on all sorts of occasions, whether he spoke after preparation or on the spur of the moment, was conspicuous. He spoke as he felt—that is, strongly—on every matter on which he had made up his mind; but perhaps there may be permission for the friendly criticism of one who, as a life long intimate, knew and valued him, that he not unfrequently spoke *ore rotundo* when a less oratorical style might have sufficed.

The second circumstance which powerfully influenced Wood's future for good, was his appointment when a young practitioner to

be one of the medical officers of the New Town Dispensary. There his natural energy found an ample field for its exercise, and here he found, as many of his fellow practitioners can testify that they have done, the value to them of being thrown on their own resources, and having to apply on their own responsibility those clinical instructions which they had acquired under their teachers in the Royal Infirmary. Andrew Wood laboured hard among the poor, and soon acquired that self-reliance and decidedness as a practitioner which characterised him in after life, and which made him to be trusted and valued in the large practice which he enjoyed, partly as an inheritance but chiefly from his own professional worthiness. He held several important professional appointments, such as the surgeoncy of Heriot's Hospital and of the Merchant Maiden and Trades Maiden Hospitals, and the Inspectorship of Anatomy for Scotland.

His most conspicuous public position was that of a member of the General Medical Council. His hereditary as well as personal attachment to the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the active share which he had taken in all its work, alike as a fellow, as president, and as an examiner, pointed him out as the fitting representative of that body in the General Council, and the College neither sought nor needed any other representative so long as he lived. He was soon recognised as an important and useful member of the Council, the best proof of which was his selection as the Scottish member of its Executive Committee. This entailed upon him much work, and frequent visits to London. To most people these last would have been a trial and discouragement, but his energetic nature knew no such impediments. He would make a night journey up, have a day's business in the metropolis, and come back next night by the express, reappearing as usual in his professional rounds in the forenoon of the second day, apparently as fresh as if he had enjoyed two successive nights of undisturbed repose. It was these rapid movements of his which gained for him from his friends, both here and in London, the sobriquet of the "Flying Scotsman."

Andrew Wood through his whole life had a keen enjoyment of the classics both ancient and modern, his favourite languages being Latin and German, and his love for them led him to write and publish translations from Horace and also from Lessing and Schiller. He

had a retentive memory, and often in conversation or discussion produced an apt quotation especially from Horace or Lucretius. It was his work as a member of the Medical Council rather than his literary efforts which led his Alma Mater, the University of Edinburgh, to confer upon him the degree of LL.D.

In the matter of general politics, Dr. Wood had, as was usual with him, very decided opinions. Other people called him a Conservative; he avowed himself to be a Tory. He never, however, allowed politics to make any difference for him in the amenities of private life, and thus it came that many of those who were his most loved and loving friends were entirely of opposite political opinions. In both these respects he was a close follower of his genial and esteemed father, William Wood. In medical politics he followed no system which could be designated as Conservatism. His position in medical politics would best be expressed by a term borrowed from the German Parliamentary vocabulary; he was a Progressist. His great desire was to see the medical profession not merely maintained but elevated in public and social estimation. Fully estimating the necessity for the rising generation of medical men being thoroughly equipped in all that pertains to modern advances in professional knowledge, he was particularly anxious that good preliminary education should be insisted on, and that the young doctor should first of all be a well-educated gentleman.

His ecclesiastical position was that of a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church, as his forefathers had been. He was not one of those who carry their profession of faith on their sleeve. He never paraded his religion before the world. He would and did talk earnestly and piously on religious topics with his intimate friends, and being in his private relations a loving husband, an affectionate father, an attached friend and an upright straightforward man, he was a capital example of the unpretentious sincere Christian gentleman.

In the social relations he was esteemed by all who had the privilege of his friendship. A certain almost boyish exuberance of animal spirits made him the centre of a hilarious group, whenever he foregathered with his friends in the University Club, or at the festive board of the Æsculapian or the Medico-Chirurgical Club. He had the true clubbable quality of being able to give and

take a repartee; he would “nothing extenuate nor set down ought in malice.”

It was when in the midst of an apparent health and vigour which promised more years of public usefulness, that his friends who knew him intimately, and the public who knew him by name only, were startled and shocked by the news of his sudden death, due, as was afterwards ascertained, to rupture of the heart, on the 25th January of this year, and consequently when he was in the seventy-first year of his age.

Another generation of Edinburgh doctors must be created and become extinct, before it will be forgot that the character of an excellent practitioner, a valuable servant of the public and the profession, an amiable domestic man, a genial friend, and a true Christian gentleman, were united in the person of Andrew Wood.

The following Communications were read:—

1. On a Particular Case of the Symbolic Cubic. By Dr. Gustav Plarr. Communicated by Professor Tait.

§ 1. The method by which Hamilton has established the symbolical cubic

$$(1) \quad m - m_1\phi + m_2\phi^2 - \phi^3 = 0,$$

and more particularly the relation

$$(2) \quad m\phi^{-1} = m_1 - m_2\phi + \phi^2,$$

is founded on a generalisation of the result

$$(3) \quad m\phi^{-1}(V\lambda\mu) = V(\phi'\lambda\phi'\mu),$$

where ϕ represents a linear and vector function, and ϕ' its conjugate according to the definition

$$S\rho\phi'\sigma = S\sigma\phi\rho.$$

In the most general case of $\phi\rho$ the expression of this function is reducible to a vector sum of *three* terms of the form $aSa_1\rho$, and the directions which $\phi\rho$ is susceptible of representing are generally not limited in space.

We may now conceive a class of cases in which the expression of $\phi\rho$ is reducible to the sum of *two* terms only, and in which the