

Obituary Notices.

JOSIAH SMYLY, F.R.C.S,

Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

JONATHAN OSBORNE, M.D., M.R.I.A.,

*King's Professor of Materia Medica in the School of Physic in
Ireland.*

THE mortality among the medical men of this city, within the last seven years, has, we believe, been unprecedented; and what renders this the more remarkable is, that it has occurred independently of any epidemic invasion. Let us just enumerate the losses which the profession and the public have sustained during this comparatively brief period:—Crampton, Bellingham, Harrison, Montgomery, Marsh, Porter, Harkan, Rynd, Pitcairn, Cusack, Brereton, Montgomery, Peile, O'Beirne, White, Ledwich, Tagart, W. Kennedy, Lees, Martley, A. M'Donnell, Williams, Moss, Woodroofe, Baggot, Whitestone, Kelly, Nixon, Beauchamp, Scouler, Kinahan, Power, And now the ruthless hand of death, not satisfied with the devastation already made in our ranks, has again been amongst us, and cut off one, scarcely past the prime of life, who combined the attributes of an accomplished surgeon with all the qualities of a Christian gentleman.

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of JOSIAH SMYLY, Esq., Fellow and Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons. This event took place on the 19th ultimo, and resulted from an acute attack of pneumonia, which had seized him only a few days previously. Mr. Smyly was born in the year 1804, and, having graduated in Arts in Trinity College, and served an apprenticeship to his uncle, the late Sir Philip Crampton, he obtained, in 1826, the licence of the Royal College of Surgeons. Upon the death of Mr. Thomas Hewson, in 1831, he was elected one of the surgical staff of the Meath Hospital, of which hospital he was the senior surgeon at the time of his decease, having outlived all his original colleagues, with the exception of Dr. Stokes.^a

^a It is not a little singular that of twelve surgeons connected with this hospital, since the year 1846, seven have been removed by death.

For some years back Mr. Smyly has enjoyed a large and increasing share of private practice. This was to be expected from his great hospital experience and thorough knowledge of his profession. But, in addition to these essential qualifications for success as a practitioner, his gentleness of manner and considerate kindness to the sick, no matter what their rank in life, gained for him the affectionate regard of his patients; whilst his large benevolence, his unaffected simplicity of life, and his sterling principles, made him universally respected and esteemed. Being a man of rather quiet unobtrusive habits, he did not seek a prominent place in any of the medical or surgical societies to which he belonged; *esse quam videri* seeming to have been with him a ruling maxim. His contributions to medical literature were not a few. They were on "Lithotrity," "Compound Fractures of the Patella," "Thoracentesis in Empyema," "Operations for Strangulated Hernia," and "Stricture of the Urethra," and all appeared in the pages of this Journal (Vols. III., IV., XXVII., XXVIII., XXXIV., and XXXV.). From the character of these papers it is much to be regretted that their author did not give to the profession more of the results of his long experience and practical wisdom.

Though deeply imbued with the spirit of true religion, he never obtruded his opinions on others, but preferred to let the practical influence of what he felt be evidenced in the acts and conduct of his daily life. Of his social and domestic qualities it would be out of place here to speak; but this much we may say, that those who knew him, in the closer relations of life, have cause to sorrow for him with no common grief.

The remains of Mr. Smyly had not been consigned to their last resting place before death removed from the ranks of the medical profession in Dublin another distinguished member, Dr. JONATHAN OSBORNE, who died on the 22nd ultimo, from a complication of heart disease and congestion of the lungs. Dr. Osborne filled the Professor's Chair of Materia Medica in the School of Physic, in Ireland, for many years, with great honour. He was thoroughly acquainted with his subject, and was an admirable teacher. Dr. Osborne was no ordinary man; he had a most original mind, with a most ardent thirst for knowledge, which he drew in from the most varied sources. He was full of information, both professional and general; and no one could communicate it more happily. He was, in fact, a most accomplished scholar. He was a man of most

simple and pure tastes, which he probably derived from the Moravians, amongst whom he received his early education. Here, too, we may believe, he learned that respect and veneration for religion which he ever exhibited.

‘Quo semel imbuta est recens servabit odorem
Testa diu”

Dr. Osborne never sought general practice; he felt that it would have been too dearly purchased at the expense of its attendant anxieties. He did practise, and enjoyed the confidence of many who knew how to value him as a skilful, scientific physician. His contributions to medical science, of the principal of which we append a list,^a bespeak the originality of his mind and accuracy of his observation. His treatise on dropsies is full of information, both as to the nature and treatment of this disease, especially of renal dropsy; and we believe he was the first to describe the treatment which is now generally allowed to be that suited to this form of the disease—in fact, subsequent experience has added nothing to it.

From amongst his many original suggestions for the advancement of medical science we would especially notice his proposal to use the rate of cooling of a heated thermometer as the best mode of estimating the cooling effects of a given climate upon invalids. Meteorologists observe each element of the atmospheric influence separately, and

^a Dr. Osborne's treatise *On Dropsies Connected with Suppressed Perspiration and Coagulable Urine* was first published in 1835, when he was President of the K. and Q. College of Physicians; a second edition was called for in 1837. His other writings have all, we believe, appeared in our own pages. The following appeared in our First Series:—*Observations on Local Blood-letting*, Vol. iii., 1833. *On Loss of Speech*, Vol. iv., 1834. *On a Hemorrhagic Diathesis Peculiar to a Family*, Vol. vii., 1835. *Propositions Relating to Diseases of the Stomach*, Vol. vii., 1835. *On the Effects of Cold and Climate*, Vol. viii., 1836 (first account of the sensation thermometer). *On the Effects of Cold on the Human Body*, Vol. ix., 1836. *On the Nature of Neuralgia*, Vol. xii., 1838. *On Diseases of the Stomach*, Vols. xiv., xv., xx., and xxvii., 1839-'42-'45. *On the Effects of Remedies*, Vol. xvi., 1840. The remaining papers appeared in our New Series:—*Memoir of Dr. Ruddy*, Vol. iii., 1847. *Further Observations on Dropsies with Albuminous Urine*, Vol. xii., 1851. *On some Leading Facts to be Recollected in the Examination of the Fæces in Disease*, Vol. xv., 1853. *On the State Poison of the Athenians, Used in the Case of Socrates*, Vol. xv., 1853. *Observations on the Antimonial Powder of the last Dublin Pharmacopœia (1850)*, and on the Medical Effects of the Teroxide of Antimony, Vol. xviii., 1854. *A Comparative View of the Effects of Some Remedies Used in Epilepsy*, Vol. xxii., 1856. *On the Plague at Athens, as Described by Thucydides*, Vol. xxv., 1858. *On Some Actions Performed by Voluntary Muscles, which, by habit, become Involuntary, with Practical Applications*, Vol. xxx., 1860. *On the Employment of a Heated Thermometer for the Measurement of the Cooling Power of the Air on the Human Body*, Vol. xxxiii., 1862.

trace its individual laws; but, they are utterly unable afterwards to combine their isolated laws, and state the total effects of a given climate upon the human body. We may know the temperature, the rate and direction of wind, and the moisture of the air, and yet, be unable to unite these elements and predict their effect upon the human body.

Dr. Osborne proposed to observe the complex result, in the rate of cooling of a heated thermometer, and so to arrive by a ready integration at the final effect of the whole upon the human frame. His thermometer might well be named the "sensation thermometer," for it is found to correspond accurately in its indications with the feelings of the observer.

When first brought under the notice of the British Association in Dublin, and afterwards before the Royal Irish Academy in 1850, its very perfections were alleged as reasons for its non-adoption by meteorologists. It confessedly summed up the effect of temperature, moisture, and wind, and was therefore set aside in favour of instruments which were intended to measure and observe each of these elements separately.

Dr. Osborne's last paper was a further communication on this important subject, published in 1862, when it was finally read, with additional illustrations and arguments, before the Association of the College of Physicians, and published in this Journal (May, 1862).

For upwards of twenty years Dr. Osborne endeavoured, in vain, to attract the attention of meteorologists to his method of observation; but there can be no doubt that a tardy justice will, in time, be rendered to his ingenious suggestion, and that his "sensation" thermometer will ultimately find a place in every meteorological observatory in the world.

His profession exhibited their sense of Dr. Osborne's character and worth in bestowing on him its highest honours. He twice filled the Chair of President of the College of Physicians.

He was naturally a man of most cheerful and happy temper, and a most delightful companion. Those who knew him well were much attached to him, and found in him a firm and steady friend. Every one respected him as an upright, honest man. The loss of a favourite son, a youth of great promise, laid the foundation of his fatal disease.