

In Memoriam.

HENRY WILSON.

Died, Wednesday, 13th June, 1877, aged 39 years.

SINCE the issue of our last number a sad loss has befallen us in the untimely death of MR. HENRY WILSON. Besides contributing valuable Original matter MR. WILSON wrote nearly all the Reviews of Works on Ophthalmic and Aural Surgery which have appeared in our pages during the past ten years; and, under these circumstances, we feel at liberty to yield to the promptings of personal regard, and add his name to the small list of those whose deaths have been noticed in THE DUBLIN JOURNAL.

MR. WILSON spent many years of his early life at Bonn and Heidelberg, and there acquired a perfect knowledge of the French and German languages, which, no doubt, enabled him to profit to the utmost by his subsequent sojourn, as a student of Ophthalmic and Aural Surgery at Berlin, Vienna, and Paris. On his return from Bonn, he determined to devote himself to the Profession of Medicine; and as he was under the guardianship of his relative, Sir William Wilde, he was led from the outset to devote special attention to diseases of the eye and ear, and, indeed, resided during a large portion of his time, while a student, in St. Mark's Hospital, and so had extremely ample opportunities of becoming familiar with every variety of disease and injury affecting the organs of sight and hearing. He obtained his Surgical Licence in 1858; and having, as already stated, studied at the Continental Schools, he became at first House Surgeon at St. Mark's Hospital, then Assistant-Surgeon, and subsequently Junior Surgeon, and finally, on the death of Sir William Wilde, Senior Surgeon. Availing himself to the utmost of the opportunities given to him by his connexion with this institution,

MR. WILSON for many years devoted himself with great earnestness to professional study; he spent several hours of each day in the wards or in the out-patients' room of the Hospital, and kept himself fully up in the literature of his specialty. As Dr. Jacob and Sir William Wilde, who, at that time, divided the ophthalmic and aural practice in Dublin, were both growing old, the one by right of years, the other prematurely, and MR. WILSON had returned to Ireland with a knowledge of the ophthalmoscope, then but recently introduced, he very soon obtained some private practice, and might have secured more had he not been scrupulous to avoid any interference with Sir William Wilde's patients; and over and over again it happened that patients who had left Sir William, were allowed by HENRY WILSON to go to London for operation, when he might easily have retained them in his own hands, if he had not been so careful to avoid becoming Sir William's competitor. He proved, however, a very successful teacher, and the students who attended his clinic soon supplied him with patients; while his own kindly and cheerful manner, the spontaneous outcome of a genial nature, and his confidence, the legitimate fruit of many a long day spent in St. Mark's, seldom failed to make friends of those who entered his study. Although, for many years, every guinea was of consequence to HENRY WILSON, he always acted on the motto, "Live and let live;" not only did he refrain from undertaking cases which did not strictly fall within his specialty, but he refrained also from drawing patients who might need special advice out of the hands of their ordinary attendants; and instead of looking with a jealous eye on the competitors in his own chosen field, we know that some years ago he exerted himself to obtain for one of the most dangerous of them, who had not then any hospital appointment, admission on the staff of St. Mark's. He never grew avaricious; he neither tried to get all he could nor held it fast when it had passed into his hand; and to rich and poor, in manner and bearing, he was the same, and so

it came to pass that he became a successful man without creating in the minds of his professional brethren either envy or distrust; and, at the time of his death, filled with acknowledged propriety the posts of Examiner in Ophthalmic Surgery to the University of Dublin, and Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons, on the Council of which he also had a seat. For some years he likewise acted as Surgeon to the City of Dublin Artillery, and actively exerted himself to advance the interests of the Militia Surgeons.

Although his last illness was appallingly sudden, there were many circumstances which seemed to show that for a considerable time his health was breaking down. He had, in great part, left the work at St. Mark's to his friend and colleague, Dr. Rainsford, to whom, during his frequent absences from town, he also entrusted his private patients, and who now succeeds him in the Hospital, while but a few months ago he had made a will bequeathing the reversion of about five thousand pounds to the Hospital, and his library, case-books, and instruments to Dr. Rainsford. He often went from home as if he felt he needed change and rest, and he had lost much of that cheerfulness which he showed in earlier and apparently less prosperous days. No one, however, was prepared for the melancholy event when it came, and his death has left on the many who knew and valued him a deep, sad feeling of bereavement—and in the smaller circle who had a nearer view of his life and character, many regrets, which, although they find no place on this page, will remain as tender memories in the heart.