

THE LATE DR. DICKSON.

IN our last issue it was our painful duty to record the death of Dr. John R. Dickson, the President of the Faculty of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, which sad event took place on the morning of the 23d ult., and we believe a short account of the life of this able physician will prove interesting to our readers.

John Robinson Dickson was born in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, on the 15th November, 1818. His friends designed him for the bar, but his own will prevailed and he prosecuted his medical studies in the Belfast and Glasgow Colleges, and from the latter obtained a license to practise midwifery as, on account of his age, he could obtain no other. He arrived in Kingston in 1838. In the following year, being still too young to get a license, he entered into partnership with the late Dr. Hutchinson, of Peterborough, where he remained two years, and then went to New York, where he spent nearly a year, and returning to Canada in 1842 commenced the practice of his profession in Kingston, where he remained until his decease, and here his steady habits, perseverance and skill soon became known. Surgery was, perhaps, his forte. The late Dr. Mair said of him: "He was constitutionally fitted for it. Though always first he was never in a hurry. He was calm, decided, expeditious and thorough. I have been present at operations by the most skilful surgeons of our time and have seen none that had the real requisites for a successful surgeon more fully than Dr. Dickson."

In 1854 he was among the most active in forming the Medical College in Kingston, and at its first regular meeting he was unanimously chosen Professor of Surgery. This school became the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, for which in 1866 he obtained the Charter.

In 1860, being on a tour for health, he visited the various colleges in London, and succeeded in obtaining recognition for the degrees of Queen's and the Royal, for nothing but the future interests of his ever made him lose sight of the future interests of his College. In 1862 he was appointed Surgeon to the Provincial Penitentiary. At the first meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario he was elected its President. In 1869 he received the appointment of Medical Superintendent of the Kingston Asylum for the Insane, which position he held until 1878 when, though in opposition to friends of the institution, he, for the sake of his health, resigned. Last year the deceased resumed practice by way of consultation, but never really rallied from the attacks of four years ago. He has suffered from a slow apoplexy, the paralytic attacks and brain congestion being but recurring symptoms.

The deceased physician held the following degrees: M.D., New York, 1842; M.R.C.P., London, and M.R.C.S., Eng., 1863; and F.R.C.S., Edinburgh, 1867.

By his death the Medical College has lost an eminent head, though, of course, for the past few years the connection has been but nominal; the city an able physician and good citizen, and society at large a kindly Christian associate whose very example was of value to it; and the medical profession a brother, whom to lose so soon after his late gifted associate Dr. Yates, is to bereave severely. The venerable heads are fast leaving to their former students the burden of a noble calling. As a physician we can offer to his memory the warmest acknowledgment of unexampled success in his cases, won often at great sacrifice of comfort.

Upon the announcement of his death there was a suspension of class work at the College, and the students also resolved to postpone their annual banquet.

On Saturday the 25th ult. the funeral obsequies occurred. Shortly before 1 o'clock a service was held at his late summer residence on Wolfe Island. The remains were met at the ferry wharf by medical students and Faculty, who preceded the hearse, while in the rear walked the relatives and a large number of citizens. The procession moved towards Chalmers' Church, where the Arts students and Professors were met in academic costume. As the body was conveyed up the aisle a solemn march was played on the organ, the audience inside standing. Rev. Mr. McCuaig read a portion of Scripture, Prof. Mowat led in prayer, and Principal Grant made a short address in which he eulogised the deceased. Since meeting him for the first time some five years ago, he had learned to respect, admire and love the deceased. The speaker touched upon the leading points of the deceased's character. He was possessed of extraordinary energy, a keen insight and a fervent, strong judgment, so that any course of procedure adopted by him was relied upon as correct.

A man endowed as Dr.

Dickson might have lived longer had he spared himself and done less work, but he (the speaker) believed it a poor estimate to judge a man by the number of years he lived. It made little matter if one lived less or more, so long as he left a memory and example to inspire and stimulate those who came after him. In these respects they could honor him who had been called away. Principal Grant referred to the strong convictions of Dr. Dickson, particularly his great aversion to intoxicating liquor. He trusted that deceased's example would have an influence on those who respected and honored him. His last years had been crowned with all the affection, care and tenderness possible, and to-day they had paid the last tribute of respect. Rev. F. McCuaig pronounced the benediction, and an opportunity was given to students and friends to view the remains. The procession then reformed and many of the students accompanied the remains to Cataraqui Cemetery.

