

most valuable series of studies is little recognized by continental workers—a state of affairs for which, as already hinted, Roberts' isolation as a worker must, I think, be held in part responsible. To him also we owe the knowledge that the suppression of urine, as seen in calculous anuria, induces symptoms distinct from the uræmia of Bright's disease, knowledge based upon a series of observations and amply confirmed during the last few months only by the studies of Herter and Sydney Martin. As the leading authority upon renal disease he contributed important articles to the successive systems of Reynolds, Quain and Allbutt.

Row Bradford.

Next to the urinary system and the disturbances therewith connected, the digestive system claimed his attention. He was a pioneer in the study of the digestive ferments from the point of view of the physician and of the value of artificially digested foods; he called attention more especially to tryptic fermentation and the activity of the pancreatic secretion.* In 1891, he collected and placed in consecutive form his long series of papers dealing with *Digestion and Diet*.

Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1877, in 1885 he (and his work) obtained the well-merited recognition of Knighthood, and in 1889, wishing to escape the burden of his large consulting practice, he settled in London that he might devote himself in a more leisurely and thorough manner to research. "Single-minded and free from all jealousies and small ambitions," his geniality and quaint humour soon made him a great addition to London medical society. Until they knew him, it was with bated breath that the staid metropolitan physicians saw him chaff the President of the Royal College of Physicians or other head of the profession, then, finding that no evil was meant and none ensued, they went on their way refreshed. One nearer to us in Montreal, himself also of the small-built, dark-haired, Celtic type, is surely now creating in London a similar impression and great popularity.

Thus busied with new interests in London, the continuance of old investigations in his laboratory, and the development (during his yearly holiday) of his country seat in Wales, Sir William Roberts' life during its last ten years would have been ideal had it not been saddened by the sudden death of an only son, then an undergraduate at Oxford, a blow from which he never wholly recovered. Very wisely, he accepted at this period a position as member of the Opium Commission, for in India he found that total change of scene and of surroundings that were then all important. In the autumn of 1898 symptoms of serious ill-health manifested themselves, and, progressing, led to his death on April 16th at the age of sixty-nine. He was buried at Llanymawddwy, Merionethshire.

J. G. Adams.

* Lumleian Lectures, 1880.