

## BIOGRAPHY.

*Sir Victor Horsley: A Study of his Life and Work.* By STEPHEN PAGET. (London: Constable & Co.) 21s. net.

Victor Horsley died of heat-stroke in Mesopotamia in September 1916—by far the most distinguished medical victim of the War, whether among our own troops or with those of the Allies.

He was the outstanding British surgeon of his generation—the only one who had the good fortune to create a new department of Surgery. Lister's work had enabled surgeons to open with safety the cavities of the body—the joints, the abdomen, and thorax. Horsley demonstrated that with equal safety the skull and the spinal canal could be explored for the removal of tumours and foreign bodies, abscesses, &c. Starting as a physiologist, and working with Schäfer at the localization of the functions of the brain, he acquired a technique hitherto unequalled. Operating on monkeys, he found that with proper precautions the most extensive explorations of the brain and cord could be done successfully.

In 1886 he was appointed Surgeon to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square. There had been operations on the brain before Horsley began his epoch-making work that year. Macewen of Glasgow, in particular, had done pioneer work, but, as Mr. Paget says, "We can count on our fingers the cases of modern brain-surgery recorded in our surgical literature up to the time of Horsley's appointment to Queen Square." Then came a revolution: in that year he operated upon ten cases of serious brain disease, in nine successfully. He was in his twenty-ninth year, and already the story of his extraordinary results had begun to bring visiting surgeons from all parts of the world. In 1887 he removed successfully a tumour from the spinal cord—perhaps the most brilliant operation in the whole history of surgery. The victory was won. The young physiologist, trained in surgery by operating upon monkeys, had done what the leading authority on diseases and injuries of the spinal cord had declared only a few years before to be "not within the range of practical surgery." It was a great triumph, and deservedly brought fame and

succ  
alwa  
and  
in th  
Th  
neve  
hap  
The  
had  
paral  
in H  
a ma  
he di  
was  
nece  
and  
recei  
writi  
grap  
...  
a Eur  
young  
labor  
anima  
chape  
Su  
as we  
M  
rare  
woul  
their  
politi  
graci  
in an  
Th  
finds  
so :-