

in medicine, and immediately after his graduation went to the United States and joined the army of the Republic as assistant surgeon of volunteers. He acted in this capacity until the close of the war in the fall of 1864, and thus for a year and a half obtained the surgical experience which only a great war can afford. Upon his return to Canada, partly through my advice and partly through the advice of other friends, he settled in Harrowsmith, which although a small village at that time, afforded one of the best country practices in this part of Ontario. There his professional ability, his urbanity, his goodness of heart and his geniality of disposition soon became known, and established him not only as one of the leading medical advisers in that section of country, but as a pleasant companion and a true family friend. When our Canadian volunteer militia was organized, Dr. Smith was appointed Surgeon of the 47th Frontenac Battalion, a position which he vacated only at his death. Although of more than average professional ability, he was content to fill his calling in a hard country practice, rather than cultivate an easier life in some large town or city. Although frequently speaking of adopting the latter course, the feeling of attachment between his country patients and himself was so great that he could never fully make up his mind to sever the links that bound them together.

For the past twenty years Dr. Smith has been a useful man to a large and increasing number of clients, and now that he has gone, hundreds feel that they have been bereft of a friend, and mourn his untimely loss. He possessed a good constitution, and seemed to enjoy the best of health up to about six months ago. He then began to complain of more or less pain behind the sternum, of an occasional dry irritative cough and difficulty in swallowing; he began also to lose flesh and suffer a deterioration of muscular strength. He continued to perform his professional duties, however, and on several occasions of my meeting with him he stated his condition to me, but supposed he was suffering from bronchitis and that he would soon recover. About three months ago I was called to see him, and from the symptoms then manifested I diagnosed cancer of the stomach with obstruction of the œsophagus. My partner, Dr. Henderson, saw him some time afterwards and confirmed my opinion, which was also concurred in by Dr. Day, of Harrowsmith. We continued to visit him occa-

sionally, Dr. Day especially giving him every care and assistance in his power, until death brought him his final release from suffering.

The day after his decease, Drs. Day, Henderson and myself made a post-mortem examination, and found abundant confirmation of our diagnosis. A large cancerous mass, in a stage of ulceration, occupied the lower part of the œsophagus, and several hard nodules, one of them as large as a pullet's egg, were situated in the walls of the stomach about the cardiac orifice, and some of these also in the ulcerative stage. Other abdominal organs also were affected. For eight weeks previous to death he was confined to his bed, and although his sufferings were very great, never a murmur or complaint escaped his lips. He leaves a kind and devoted wife to mourn his loss, but no children.

Thus has passed away a noble-hearted and useful professional brother at an age when experience should have crowned him with distinction in his chosen vocation. In his death I miss another of the remaining few that sat in the class-rooms with me and drank in knowledge from the same teachers. Thus I am reminded that one by one the links are breaking that enchain our spirits here, and that ere long I too must follow, and that the generation even to which we belonged shall soon be numbered with the past.

Yours truly, THOS. R. DUPUIS.
Kingston, Ont.

NOVEL INHALER.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I had occasion to give chloroform a short time ago where I was dubious as to using the napkin, as the patient was suffering from rheumatic valvular disease, and as I was wearing matted cuff-protectors worn by storekeepers, the idea suggested itself to cover the small end with lint and drop the chloroform thereon, and by stretching or compressing I could regulate the quantity of air I desired mixed with the chloroform vapor. The experiment was so successful that I have used the cuff-protector several times, and am convinced that it is as good a means of administering anæsthetics as can be got, and the expense is *nil*.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES SKIRVING.

Tavistock, Ont., Feb. 23, '84.