

remain passive or neutral amidst the stirring events in Canadian civil and political life of forty and fifty years ago; and he found time, through the medium of the press and in other ways, to prove himself the friend and ally of such men as Baldwin and Hincks. That his patriotism was not of the pen and paper kind is shown by his holding the rank of Brevet-Major in the Militia.

As early as 1848 the Government showed their confidence in his integrity and ability by appointing him on the Board of Commissioners to inquire into the affairs of King's College and Upper Canada College.

The literary and professional attainments and valuable contributions of the Doctor have been recognized from time to time by election to various scientific societies of Great Britain, United States, Italy, etc.

But we turn from these facts to some features of his long and useful life, which give the key to the high position our venerable confrere holds in the esteem of the profession. In the first place, for more than a half-century he has been an ardent and humble student of medicine, showing the true animus early in his career in his efforts to solve the etiology of Asiatic cholera, and at eighty-four, with unflagging interest, translating an Italian work on cerebral pathology.

An old-time lecturer on midwifery and therapeutics, his matter and manner combined to make an indelible impression upon his students.

The Doctor was one of the earlier members of the Medical Board, of which the Hon. Dr. Widmer was President, and he is the sole survivor of that small group of worthies, amongst whom he helped to preserve a needed balance of power, earning the gratitude of not a few candidates for license by his good judgment and fairness.

For well nigh a quarter-century he was the head and heart of the largest and most important medical establishment of the country—the Asylum for the Insane, Toronto—the trusted officer of the Government, the wise mentor of the public; yet true as steel in professional *esprit*. Never sinking his individuality in officialism or showing the perfunctory spirit, he was as ready, if need be, himself to clean out a soil pipe as he was facile in expounding his views on Paresis or other of the knotty problems

of the alienist; and by his rare tact, energy and administrative ability, evolving the institution from a semi-chaotic condition to be a fitting monument to his worth.

Holding that organic disease and mental aberration are often the cause of evil habits and so-called crime, Dr. Workman has always shown the courage of his convictions, and has been ready to give an answer for the faith that was in him. Never priding himself on being infallible, he has held truth to be sacred, and reputation less dear than character.

And the profession is largely in debt to the expert alienist whose vast knowledge of habits and men, lucid and trenchant style, and withal singleness of aim, enabled him in many weighty cases of civil and criminal jurisprudence to hold his own against judge and counsel—a foeman worthy of their steel, whom naught could swerve from the straight line of conviction.

While wishing our venerable friend God-speed the rest of life's journey, may we express the hope that he will give some reminiscences of his long and honourable career as a welcome legacy to the profession he has served so well.

THE most interesting and largely-attended meeting in the history of the Toronto Medical Society was held in the Medical Council Chambers, December, the 26th, about one hundred members being present. The President, Dr. Machell, was in the chair. The special features of the evening were addresses by Dr. James B. Hunter, of New York, and Dr. Wm. Osler, of Philadelphia, and the unveiling by Dr. R. A. Reeve of a large and exquisitely-finished portrait, in oil, of Dr. Jos. Workman, the Society's first President. The portrait was executed in the well-known style of Forster, the eminent artist, who has represented the doctor sitting at ease reading a copy of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER. It has been procured by the Society as a memento of their esteem, and was pronounced as doing full justice to both subject and artist. It will be preserved in the Society's Rooms, Medical Council Chambers.

THE drawing which appears as the frontispiece of this number of THE PRACTITIONER has been made by Mr. Cruickshank from an original photograph of Dr. Workman.