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## EDITORIAL

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DRS. J. HUGHLINGS JACKSON AND JOSEPH BELL.

The issue of the *British Medical Journal* for 14th October records the deaths of Drs. Jackson and Bell. In the passing of these two very distinguished men the whole world of medicine is vastly poorer by their removal from our midst. We speak with unusual feeling, for we recall the brilliant teaching of both and their unfailing kindness. In our remarks there is something that is intensely personal; for we went around the wards with them on many an occasion. Dr. Bell was a gifted surgeon and clear teacher. His judgment was quick, but sure. He was most resourceful in an emergency, and his dexterity in operating was a marvel to all who saw him. He seemed to be guided by an unerring instinct. It was this great keenness that made Conan Doyle select him as the prototype of Sherlock Holmes. Dr. Bell was a gifted member of a gifted family.

Turning to Dr. Hughlings Jackson we find much difficulty in finding words to express our appreciation of the man. He was of that order that stands out unique and alone. No matter in what age he had come he would have found much to investigate and many unknown conditions to clear up and problems to solve. In medicine he was a true philosopher and problem solver. He was in medicine, as Kepler was in astronomy, a real lawgiver. It is not too much to state that he was one of the most original types of mind that the history of medicine can claim as all her own. As a teacher he was most fascinating, as his words were the words of wisdom sped by the bowstring of truth. We like to think of him in the words of Shakespeare:

He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one;  
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate;  
Lofty and sour, to them that loved him not;  
But to those men that sought him, sweet as Summer.