

Obituary.

JAMES THORBURN, M.D.

We have to announce with the deepest regret the death of Dr. James Thorburn, which occurred at his late residence in Toronto, May 26th. He was born in Queenston, November 21st, 1830. He received part of his medical education in Toronto, but completed his course in the University of Edinburgh, graduating M.D. in 1855. He received the degree of M.D. (*ad eundem*) from the University of Toronto in 1859.

Shortly after leaving Edinburgh he settled in Toronto and very soon acquired a large and lucrative practice. His handsome appearance, charming manner, kindness of heart, boundless tact and great skill made him one of the best specimens of a *family physician* that this country has known. He was, however, essentially a general practitioner and was for many years recognized in Toronto as a man skilled in medicine, surgery and midwifery.

Although as a practising physician he was ever busy, he did much outside of his routine work. He was for some time a teacher of Medical Jurisprudence, and later of Therapeutics and Materia Medica in the Toronto School of Medicine, and also a teacher of Clinical Medicine and Surgery in the Toronto General Hospital. He gave up his work as an active teacher in 1888, and was appointed Emeritus Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica in the University of Toronto, and shortly afterwards Consulting Surgeon to the General Hospital. He took much interest in the welfare of the University of Toronto and was for many years a member of the Senate of that institution.

He was a very active supporter of many medical societies and especially of the Canadian Medical Association, of which he was President in 1895, when one of Montreal's best meetings was held. He was a member of the Ontario Medical Council for many years, and was elected President of that body in 1897. He also took great interest in life assurance and was for a long time Medical Director and Vice-President of the North American Life Assurance Company. While occupying this position he wrote a valuable "Manual of Life Assurance Examinations." He was one of the first surgeons in Toronto to take part in military organization and was for many years surgeon to the Queen's Own Rifles, being with the regiment in that capacity at the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866.

While we, who enjoyed the privilege of a close acquaintance with him were proud of his success in so many directions, we took more pleasure in thinking of his admirable qualities in private life. He was in all respects one of the most lovable men that we have known. While our deepest sympathy is