

burgh, was theoretical, Gregory, who was professor of theoretic medicine, was a man of an essentially practical mind.

Looking up the history of the three professors whose case reports and lectures are contained in these two columns, it is interesting from their published works, to see that these notes were taken at a time when there was very active study at Edinburgh of case reports. Thus Francis Home, whom I have not quoted, but whose cases are contained in the volume along with Gregory's, was professor of materia medica in Edinburgh and in this very year, 1780, published a volume of clinical experiments, Histories (i. e. clinical histories), and Discussions. Duncan, whose lectures are contained in the second volume, was a prolific writer; certain of his works were translated into German and other languages; among them I find a volume of medical cases selected from the records of the Public Dispensary at Edinburgh and published there in 1778. Of this a Latin translation was published at Leyden in 1783.

Dr. James Gregory was also as you see enthusiastic with regard to case reports and was further a great teacher. As one of his biographers remarks, "We can never mention his name without the warmest feelings of gratitude for those never-to-be-forgotten lessons of which we feel the value more as experience becomes more advanced. The wisdom, the manliness, the learning without pedantry, the scorn and contempt of quackery and all the other recommendations of that great and accomplished teacher contributed for a long period to keep up the dignity of an Edinburgh degree and to maintain the proper rank of the physician." He came of rather a remarkable family; his grandfather had been professor of medicine in Aberdeen, his great-uncle was the celebrated physicist, the inventor of the reflecting telescope, and his father was professor of medicine in Edinburgh, and physician to the king in Scotland. Born in 1758 in Aberdeen, Dr. Gregory after studying in Edinburgh, studied a year at St. George's Hospital in 1773, returning to Edinburgh the next year, and after a medical journey through Holland, France and Italy, he in 1775 was made professor of the Institutes of Medicine at Edinburgh. In 1790 he became Cullen's successor as professor of clinical medicine, a position which he held until his death in 1822. He was not a great writer, his main work, which was for long years the text-book of Edinburgh students, was his *Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ*, published in 1780, as a text-book for his lectures. His whole energy appears to have been thrown into his hospital and medical teaching, and you would do well to take out of the library the notebook I have referred to and from which I have quoted, to read his interesting discussions of cases and treatment, which I may repeat, are anything but theoretical.