

## Obituary.

---

### THE DEATH OF SIR JOHN ERIC ERICHSEN.

Sir John Eric Erichsen, the author of the well-known work on surgery, died on the 22nd September, 1896, at the age of 78 years.

Probably no man in recent years, has for so long a period held a more prominent or influential position, among English surgeons, as a surgeon, as a clinical teacher, or been so successful as an author.

He studied medicine at University College Hospital, and became a professor in University College at the early age of thirty-two. The first edition of his surgery appeared in 1853. It was published in one volume of 950 pages. The fifth edition was published in two volumes in 1879. It was translated into German, Spanish, Italian and Chinese. During the American rebellion, the American government gave a copy of the American edition to each army surgeon, but did so without the consent of the author or his publishers. He had held the highest positions that the profession in England could confer upon him, and at the time of his death was president of University College, emeritus professor of surgery and consulting surgeon to University College Hospital, and surgeon extraordinary to the Queen.

As a man he was kind and generous.

Among his pupils were Sir Joseph Lister, Sir Henry Thompson and Marcus Beck.

A correspondent of the *Lancet* gives the following amusing anecdote of the late Sir John Erichsen.

"The late Dr. Hugh McNicol, of Dalnally, Argyllshire, told me of his having once met Erichsen. A serious fracture case occurred in a large hotel in the country and Dr. McNicol was called to it. When setting the limb an old gentleman came to him and said he would be glad to give any assistance required, as he too was a medical man. He was thanked by Dr. McNicol and asked to use extension, etc., and to all the local man's directions, the old gentleman gave ready obedience. The fracture was set and an adjournment made to the smoking room. 'I must thank you for your assistance, Sir!' 'Not at all; I was glad to be able to help in the matter. I think the case will do well, as the setting of the limb is perfect. That's my card.' Dr. McNicol saw 'John Eric Erichsen' on the card, and he told me he never felt so helpless in regard to making a remark fitting for the