

degree simplified the method of instruction or economized the time of both student and demonstrator.

Dr. Johnston's habit of mind, his rapidity of thought and quickness in seizing upon what was of immediate importance, makes his published writings a very poor index of the amount of work he accomplished, and only to those who knew him do they give anything but an imperfect idea of the soundness and extent of his knowledge. His mental habit of concentration and going to the root of the matter, neglecting all side issues, which made him so valuable and trustworthy as a medico-legal expert and a coroner's physician, showed itself in all his research. A given problem presented itself to him, and he worked at it until he had satisfied himself with regard to that problem only, and being satisfied with results, was extremely careless in placing them upon record. His papers are characterized by directness, they are unaccompanied by any full or orderly history of the development of his subject up to the point at which he took it in hand, and he was content, as a rule, to incidentally refer to the work of others which he was able either to confirm or refute. These references, however, were always adequate for those familiar with the matter, but not always so for the ordinary professional reader. The difficulties which he encountered in attacking the problem, the side issues which sprang up in the course of his investigations, were rarely more than hinted at; the part of the subject which interested him and which impressed him with its importance was recorded red hot. Thus his published papers, an incomplete list of the more important of which follow this notice, are apt to strike the reader as being short and hurried, and certainly do not do him justice. But one has only to glance over the list to appreciate his remarkable versatility.

His mastery of many allied branches of medicine, gross and microscopic pathology, both human and comparative, bacteriology in a more abstract form as well as in its applications to hygiene and public health, sanitation, medical jurisprudence in many aspects, as well as medical education, will be found among his contributions. To each of these subjects he made valued and pre-eminently practical contributions, endeavouring to popularize each subject and to bring its methods within the reach of those to whom it would be useful.

Of recent years he devoted himself to hygiene and medical jurisprudence. One of his most thorough studies in the department of medical jurisprudence, in which he probably stands pre-eminent in Canada, if not on this continent, was a method of determining the pecuniary equivalent of injuries to one or other portions of the body, a subject which was very largely neglected by English-speaking medical jurists, although it has been very scientifically investigated in France and Germany. About the time of his death he was negotiating a scheme for the use of