

Obituary

PROFESSOR WYATT GALT JOHNSTON.

The death of Professor Wyatt Johnston, which occurred on the 19th of June, from pulmonary embolism, deprives the profession of Canada of one of its most brilliant and original members. His death was due to septic poisoning acquired in the autopsy room of the Montreal General Hospital. A streptococcus inoculation of his hand in February last incapacitated him for work for a few weeks, but he returned again to his duties, and probably received a second infection in April. A thrombus appeared in the internal saphenous vein of his left leg about the end of April, followed by a more extensive coagulation later. He then removed to a private ward in the General Hospital, and shortly after this the veins of the other leg became similarly affected, and there was evidence of the presence of thrombi in the iliac veins of both sides. Death resulted on the 19th of June from a pulmonary embolism. The autopsy showed extensive thrombi on both sides and a general streptococcus and diplococcus infection.

Dr. Wyatt Galt Johnston was the son of the late Dr. J. B. Johnston, of Sherbrooke, Que. He received his early education at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and entered upon the study of medicine in McGill University in 1880, graduating in 1884. As a student he showed special aptitude for pathology, and was a constant associate of Dr. Osler, assisting him at autopsies and preparing material for demonstration. Immediately after graduation he became resident medical officer in the General Hospital, and during the period of his service had more than the usual responsibility on his shoulders, as the staff that year was small and continually changing. In the spring of 1885 he paid his first visit to Germany, working during the summer in Virchow's laboratory in Berlin. Next year he returned again to Germany and carried on researches in connection with pernicious anæmia in the laboratory of Professor Grawitz at Greifswald. He was appointed demonstrator in pathology at McGill, and alone he gave all the lectures and demonstrations in this department for a number of years. He subsequently returned to Germany and worked at comparative pathology in Munich and also for some months in the Zoological Gardens in London. Shortly after this he resigned his position in pathology in McGill, but still continued to work in the General Hospital, devoting himself almost exclusively to bacteriology and beginning his medico-legal work.