

1899

JOSEPH A. FIFE, M.D.

Dr. J. A. Fife, one of the oldest practitioners of Peterboro, Ont., died there on the morning of February 12th. Dr. Fife was born in the County of Peterboro in 1838 and received his medical education at the Toronto School of Medicine and his degree at Victoria University, Toronto. Subsequently he took a post-graduate course at Bellevue. During the American civil war he served for two years in the Northern Navy as surgeon.

RICHARD MAURICE BUCKE, M.D.

Dr. Bucke, Superintendent of the London Asylum for the Insane, died February 19th, aged 65. The circumstances surrounding his death were particularly sad. About 11.30 p.m. he stepped out on his verandah, slipped on the ice, fell on the back of his head, and was instantly killed.

He received his medical education in McGill, graduating M.D. in 1862, being gold medallist of his year. After spending two years at post-graduate work in London and Paris, and one year in California, he engaged in general practice in Western Ontario for eleven years. He was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for Insane, Hamilton, in 1876, and was transferred to London in 1877. He was a man of singular ability in many directions, and at the same time possessed social qualities that endeared him to his large circle of friends. He was known to most students of "Leaves of Grass" as a warm, stalwart, life-long friend of Walt Whitman. He had the largest and best Whitman collection in the world. His contributions to periodical literature were numerous, and he was engaged for the last ten years on two works, one on "Cosmic Consciousness," and another on the Bacon-Shakespeare question, which will probably be published shortly.