

simple Seidlitz powder, may well be trusted with the more important ones, which they are daily called upon to perform.

ORBITUARY NOTICES.

DR. ROBERT NELSON.

Many of our readers will regret to hear of the death of the late Dr. Robert Nelson, at the ripe age of 79. He had been suffering from hemiplegia for some twelve months past; the disease, however, did not show any very dangerous symptoms until seven weeks ago. He died at his private residence Staten Island, near New York, on Sunday, the 2nd March. After having secured a handsome competence, he had retired from practice some four years ago, and was succeeded by his only son, Dr. Eugene Nelson, M.R.C.S., England, who still practices in New York. Dr. Robert Nelson was born in January, 1794, and at an early age was apprenticed to the late Dr. Arnouldi, of Montreal, and even before he was admitted to practice he had raised a reputation for himself as a talented and clever young man, and one likely to rise to the head of his profession. He served through the war of 1812, as surgeon to a regiment called the "Indian Warriors." Being fond of Surgery, cool, and having plenty of nerve, he soon made a name, as one of the most celebrated surgeons of the day, patients coming to him from all parts of Canada and the adjoining States. He was one of the attending physicians of the Hotel Dieu Hospital, and there had an ample field in which to exercise his liking. He operated during his residence here some *sixty-five* times for urinary calculi, very successfully. In 1823, an attempted suicide divided the carotid artery, Drs. Robertson, and Caldwell, ex-army surgeons, (one had been through the wars of the Peninsula) were called in, and refused to ligature; Robert Nelson, still very young in his profession, being only 29 years old, was sent for, and successfully ligatured the artery, and saved the patient's life. He was, we believe, the first surgeon to ligature that vessel in Canada. This patient afterwards suffered from aphonia, and proceeded to England, where he consulted some of the London celebrities of the day, one of whom stated that nothing could be done for him, and remarked, "fortunate is the country that possesses such a man."

On another occasion, an influential patient of his had a ball lodged in his thigh for a considerable time, and which Dr. Nelson was unable to extract, proceeded to England, to consult some of the surgeons there. These, on ascertaining who had attended him in Canada, said "if Dr. Nelson is unable to do

anything for you, we are perfectly sure we can do nothing." The gentleman returned, and died without having the ball extracted.

He was for a time President of the Medical Board for the District of Montreal.

He was twice returned to Parliament, having been mixed up with the politics of the day. Mr. Papineau's friends were exceedingly anxious that he should be returned to Parliament, but he did not possess the necessary influence, and Robert's name was added to the ticket, he having an immense practice, and great influence, and through that influence, and the assistance of friends, they were jointly returned. The elections, at this time were almost invariably made scenes of riot and disturbance. At his last election for the West Ward, in 1834, the polls were closed before all the votes were taken owing to the violence of the mob, and the following proclamation was issued:—

"Proclamation.—It being impossible to continue the elections of the West Ward of the City of Montreal with security to myself or the citizen electors, I think it my duty to terminate the election, and I do proclaim duly elected, to represent in Provincial Parliament the West Ward of the City of Montreal, the citizens Louis Papineau and Robert Nelson, as having the majority of votes, as it appears by the poll book of the West Ward of the City of Montreal.

(Signed,) Charles André Lusignan,
Returning Officer."

During this year, Montreal was again visited by the Asiatic cholera, which raged with equal, if not greater severity, than in 1832; during these periods he was Executive Officer of the Medical Board, and received daily reports from the City practitioners, collected statistics, etc., from various sources, from which he has since written and published a book, entitled "Nelson on Cholera," which gives a clear and succinct account of the invasion of cholera in the periods named, its history, modes of treatment, etc. This work was not published until 1866, and appeared first in New York.

He translated Hupeland's System of Medicine, and has written several valuable articles for Medical publications, as well as a disquisition on the difficult subjects of Contagion and Infection. He also published a treatise, in pamphlet form, on Ovariectomy.

He did not take any active part in the troubles of 1837, but was arrested, and cast into prison, on the news arriving of the result of the fight between his brother the late Dr. Wolfred Nelson, who commanded the Rebels at St. Denis, and the Royal Troops, in