

IN MEMORIAM.

THE LATE DR. ROBERT CHARLES
KIRKPATRICK.

The press of Monday contained lengthy obituary notices of the late Dr. R. C. Kirkpatrick, who, after a very short illness, passed away on Sunday evening the 5th December. The deceased was a son of Mr. J. E. Kirkpatrick, of Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Cookson, produce merchants, brother of J. J. Kirkpatrick and brother-in-law of Captain Reid, the port warden of Montreal. Born in 1863, he was educated in this city, and took his degrees in arts and medicine at McGill University. He had been successively house surgeon, medical superintendent and surgeon of the General Hospital staff. As lecturer in clinical surgery, and demonstrator of surgery at McGill he was winning his way to a high place in the profession. He was also an associate editor of the "Medical Journal." A few years ago he commenced practice for himself and had acquired a very high reputation as a surgeon. "His unflinching courtesy won him universal esteem," says a contemporary. To this we have a few words of humble tribute to add.

Wherever he went his genial and kindly nature won him the confidence and affection of all who came in contact with him. In his practice he was more a friend than a mere physician; he seemed to sympathize with every suffering and appreciate every sentiment of those under his treatment; he became, as it were, a member of the household and with words of encouragement or consolation brought peace where the tempest of sorrow swept over the hearts, and shed light upon the clouds of misery that often darkened the hearths. We could relate many an interesting and edifying incident that would illustrate the loveable character of the young physician; one will suffice.

He is now beyond the reach of praise, at least such praise as our feeble pen can offer; we, therefore, do not feel that we are intruding upon his professional career, nor do we dread any shock to his great humility, in recalling a simple event. It was mid-winter; the storms of January and February were fierce and unrelenting that year. Dr. Kirkpatrick was summoned to attend an infant, the only child of an adoring mother. He knew from the first that the tiny being could not remain long in this cold world, and he set before himself the two-fold task of prolonging as far as possible that young life and of soothing the heart of the mother that so cherished it. At all hours, day and night, on the slightest evidence of change he was summoned, and he answered that call as promptly and as pleasantly as if he had been sent for by a prime minister or a prince. At last the angel-spirit of the child took wing, and the gloom of bereavement fell upon the home, while a great tide of grief rushed over the mother's soul. The physician had fulfilled all his duties, he was no longer required; but the man, the friend, the Christian felt that he was still needed. The

night was far advanced, the snow was heaped in hillocks without, the storm raged in boreal fury; within the lone mother watched over the faded blossom that she so cherished. A knock at the door, it was Dr. Kirkpatrick. He had come to watch for an hour or two, to talk of the dead baby, to console the grieving mother, to whisper memories of that Holy Mother who had offered up the sacrifice of her Son as a submission to the will of God, to speak words of great and deep consolation, and to leave a ray of peace where all had been darkness before. That was the late Dr. R. C. Kirkpatrick, the young, generous, fine-natured character, whose early death so many deplore.

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