

Obituary

W. M. NELSON. M.D.

We regret to have to chronicle the death of Dr. W. M. Nelson, a graduate of McGill, in 1884. After spending several years in New York, in the study of dermatology, he settled in Montreal, where he devoted himself to his specialty. Several interesting contributions have appeared in this journal from his pen, and he always took an active interest in the Medico-Chirurgical Society; particularly in the discussion of dermatological subjects. Although laboring for years under the disadvantages of grave cardiac disease, and fully realizing the nature of his complaint, he continued at his post, and carried on his duties with unflagging zeal till within a day or two of his death.

Many of his old classmates and confreres will retain a kindly memory of Dr. Nelson, and admiration for his enthusiasm, and for the heroism which enabled him to lead a useful life in spite of unusual physical disabilities.

PROFESSOR KANTHACK.

It may well be that to many medical men in Canada, the name of Kanthack was, until his sudden and premature death, almost unknown, and that it has been a surprise to them to find the leading medical journals on both sides of the Atlantic giving fuller and more appreciative references to him than they gave to one, who, known universally as a great physician, died almost at the same time, full of years and full of honours.

To those, however, who have known Kanthack, and have followed his course, this is no surprise. Sir Edward Jenner had years ago fulfilled his career, Kanthack was but entering upon its fruitful stage, and there is something pathetic in a life of promise abruptly brought to a close. Jenner, although in his younger manhood, the teacher and helper, had for long fought the hard fight to obtain pre-eminence as the fashionable consultant, a position, which, however, influential, is, somehow, rarely sympathetic; on the other hand, Kanthack had devoted himself wholly to medical science for science sake; he had not sought popularity, and his very devotion to work was the indirect cause of his death. Just as there are artists little appreciated by the general public, who are the idols of their fellow artists, so, to a very large extent, was Kanthack the idol, or more truly the ideal, of his fellow workers in pathology. Those who came under his influence, whether as his teachers, his colleagues, or his pupils, saw in him one so single-minded in the pur-