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THE death of Dr. Rufus S. Black, late of Halifax, occurred suddenly at San Bernadino, Cal., where he had been residing for the past six years. Failing health compelled him to abandon practice and seek a more genial climate. For a time he was much improved by the change. Two years ago he was attacked with paralysis from which he never fully recovered,—a recurrence proved fatal. He was 81 at the time of death, and had practiced his profession for more than half a century with a degree of success greater than the average.

He was the son of Martin Gay Black, and the grandson of the Rev. William Black—the founder of Wesleyan Methodism in the Maritime Provinces. His early and general education we

have learned was obtained in Halifax and at a then well-known literary institution in New England.

At that time the facilities for obtaining a comprehensive knowledge of medicine on this continent were not to be compared with those which exist to-day—and were far behind the long established schools of Great Britain.

Hence all young men in the British provinces who could afford the expense crossed the Atlantic to obtain the necessary qualifications. Edinburgh then as now was a great educational centre and attracted a large number of medical students from Canada and not a few from the United States.

Dr. Black studied and graduated at Edinburgh, and had as fellow-students Thomas Stirling, Thomas Hume, Alexander Mitchell, Senator Almon—all of Halifax and William Bayard, of St. John, N. B. Among the prominent Edinburgh teachers of that day were Allison, Christison, Bell, Syme and Liston. Dr. Black was the stamp of man to be influenced by close and daily contact with such eminent teachers, and in 1836 left his Alma Mater with a mind well disciplined and stored with the principles and practice of the more important departments of his chosen profession. He then went to Paris, spending some time with the notable teachers of that school. His intimate knowledge of French was of service to him here as well as in after life. Here he became