

OBITUARY.

RICHARD LEA MACDONNELL.

Rarely has the profession of Canada suffered a more serious loss than by the death of Dr. MacDonnell, of McGill University, which took place in Montreal on the 31st ult. In him were possibilities of which the past had given full earnest, and the deepest sadness is in the thought of a life of so much promise thus prematurely removed. Although only thirty-five years old, he had reached a position which gave scope to abilities of first-class order and afforded opportunities of impressing upon a large class of students those qualities of mind so essential in the teacher, so priceless to the taught—honesty, system and painstaking care.

Upon the death of Dr. Palmer Howard, three years ago, Dr. MacDonnell followed Dr. George Ross in the chair of clinical medicine, a position which his father had occupied in 1845. He had previously been elected on the staff of the Montreal General Hospital. The pages of the *Montreal Medical Journal* for the past twelve years attest the diligence with which he worked at his profession. Of late he has been a valued contributor to our columns, and only three weeks ago we published an admirable lecture of his—probably his last communication.

Four years ago Dr. MacDonnell had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs, which was thought possibly to be tuberculous, but after a winter abroad he returned in excellent health. During the past session of the school he was vigorous and well, and accomplished a large amount of literary work. Two months ago he began to fail in health, and went earlier than usual to his summer residence on the lower St. Lawrence; but pulmonary symptoms developed with great rapidity, and he died a few days after his removal to Montreal.

Very few men have entered upon the race with greater advantages than Dr. MacDonnell did. To a fine physique and presence, and a charm of manner which is so often continued in this country in the second generation of Irishmen of the Brahmin class—to use an expression of Oliver Wendell Holmes's—there were added those mental gifts which alone assure success—industry and perseverance. Very early in his

career circumstances in connection with the accidental death of his father altered his surroundings and threw upon him responsibilities that were faithfully and courageously met, and that gave an unmistakable stamp to a character naturally refined and noble. Success came, cares lightened, and with domestic, social, and professional relations of the happiest possible kind, the future could not have looked brighter, but—*es hat nicht sollen sein*, and a devoted wife, an aged mother, and a loving sister, with colleagues, students and friends, mourn his untimely union with

“The inheritors of unfulfilled renown.”

—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

THOMAS ANDERSON RODGER.

In the death of Doctor Thomas Anderson Rodger, the profession of Canada has lost one of its members who had endeared himself to all with whom he had come into contact. The deceased was born in Scotland, and began his business life behind a pharmacist's counter. He was graduated at McGill in 1869, and was immediately afterwards appointed House Apothecary at the Montreal General Hospital. From the first he manifested those qualities of independence of thought and geniality of disposition which made him popular, both with the laity and the profession. To rise in a few years from the position of an apothecary's apprentice, to be a leading surgeon in our metropolitan city, the chief medical adviser of a great corporation, and the representative of the profession in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, without the favouring circumstances of family influence, or wealth, was alike creditable to his energy and self-reliance, and a testimony to his worth.

His official duties as chief surgeon to the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada, in succession to the late Dr. Scott, caused him to be widely known to the profession, and it can be safely said, that by his kindly bearing towards his professional brethren, his undoubted loyalty to the great corporation for which he acted, in no way diminished the high esteem in which he was held. He commenced practice in Point St. Charles, and became a busy man at once, afterwards he removed to the west end. His death was due to septic pneumonia, at the age of forty-four. He leaves a widow and one son. He had