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Shepherd, F. J.

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ARTHUR A. BROWNE.

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### ARTHUR A. BROWNE.

On January 26th, 1910, there passed from among us after a long illness a man who was beloved by everybody who ever knew him. He might well be called the "Beloved Physician," for he brought comfort and relief to many a bedside. His quiet, gentle ways, his sympathetic manners, and his careful attention to details and everything that would benefit his patients made him esteemed and respected wherever he went. Dr. Browne was not a fashionable practitioner though he had many fashionable patients, and he gave as much, and perhaps more, attention to the poor than to the rich. Nothing was too much trouble, and money considerations were nothing to him, for he only looked to the welfare of his patient and not to the fees which would come from his assiduous attentions. The writer on one occasion looked at his visiting list and asked him from how many on that list he expected adequate remuneration; and he answered, about one-third. He was truly a magnetic physician, for his mere presence in the sick room brought relief and comfort. He was very humble as to his abilities, though they were great, and he never hesitated to obtain the advice of specialists if he thought they could throw any light on the case. He did not attempt to do things which he thought others would do better, and so his patients had the utmost confidence in his opinion and advice.

Arthur Browne was born in the Eastern Townships in 1848, of Irish parents, and although he had no war-like tastes, came of a military family. He graduated in 1866 as B.A. of McGill, and after a year or two in business (which was not congenial to him) entered the Faculty of Medicine and graduated M.D., C.M., in 1872, the same year as his old and close friend, Dr. Wm. Osler. After spending a year abroad he started practice in this city, and for some years had an uphill fight, for he had no private means. However, his abilities and good qualities became known, and soon he had one of the largest practices in the city. He devoted himself especially to obstetrics, a department of medicine in which he established for himself an honorable reputation.

In 1883 he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics in McGill University, succeeding the late Prof. Duncan MacCallum, at the same time taking charge of the University Maternity Hospital. But, at the end of three years, owing to his increasing practice and his distaste for the drudgery of teaching, he resigned his professorship, much to the regret of his colleagues. Although he did not remain a member of the Medical

Faculty of McGill his friendship with the professors of that Faculty continued to his death. His interests were always those of McGill, and no medical function was thought to be complete without the presence of Arthur Browne. Dr. Browne had a fine literary taste and was one of the best read men in general literature in the profession. He was a good classic, and the writer who was with him in Rome in 1894 benefited much by his classical knowledge. He had also the eye of an artist, knew a good picture, and loved it. He had a fine collection of pictures, well chosen and delightful to the connoisseur. We shall rarely again see such a man, for his class is passing away—one who was a family physician and at the same time the family friend and adviser. Arthur Browne was essentially a noble-minded gentleman. His sterling character, his high sense of honour, his consideration for others, his quaint, dry humour and his professional abilities will be hard to equal, and no one will have other than pleasant memories of him. An old medical friend thus writes of him: "I have met and known many men of the medical world, but no one among them drew me to him as did Arthur Browne, and for the rest of life's journey I shall ever miss his wholesome companionship." He leaves a wife, three sons, and one daughter to mourn their loss.

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