

## DEATH OF DR WILLIAM GILCHRIST, TORQUAY.

WE have received intelligence of the death of Dr William Gilchrist at Torquay, on 12th February. Dr Gilchrist was the son of a medical practitioner at Polmont, and graduated in Medicine, with distinction, at the University of Edinburgh in 1857. He soon after went abroad to pursue his studies, more especially in regard to physiology, which was his favourite subject, and spent some time in Berlin. On returning to Edinburgh he commenced practice there, devoting his leisure to scientific pursuits. He acted for a short time as assistant to Professor Bennett in his class of the Institutes of Medicine, but was interrupted in his duties by a violent attack of hæmoptysis, which confined him for some time, and rendered a change of climate advisable. This led to his settlement at Torquay, where his health for a time considerably improved. Latterly, however, we believe the chest affection again became active. Dr Gilchrist communicated papers and reviews, chiefly on Physiological subjects, to various medical journals; and for some years he contributed a quarterly Report on Physiology to this Journal. His chief original researches bore upon the influence of the vagus nerve on respiration, and were published in the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review* for 1858. The profession has lost in him a zealous and enthusiastic worker.

## APPOINTMENT TO THE LECTURERSHIP ON MATERIA MEDICA AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, SURGEONS' HALL, EDINBURGH.

ON the 16th February, Dr Angus Macdonald, F.R.C.S.E., was unanimously appointed to the Lecturership on Materia Medica and Therapeutics at the Medical School, Surgeons' Hall, vacant by the death of Dr Scoresby-Jackson.

## DR CHARLES BELL ON THE PERMANGANATES IN DIPHThERIA.

(To the Editor of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*.)

SIR,—I beg leave to say, in reference to the paper on Diphtheria in your Journal for the present month, that the treatment by the permanganate of potash is "not altogether new in this disease," nor has it been less successful in the "experience of others" than in the practice of Dr Campbell; as, from its remarkable effect in removing the false membrane in diphtheria, I was induced, six years ago, to publish a paper on the subject in the *London Medical Review*, which led to the treatment being adopted by some of our most experienced practitioners here. My paper was reprinted by Mr Condy, the discoverer of the permanganates, and widely circulated among the medical profession. When I first brought this remedy under the notice of my medical brethren there was none of it to be got in Edinburgh. As a further evidence of my having first suggested the use of the permanganates in diphtheria, I shall add an abstract from Mr Muter's interesting account of the permanganates. "The remarkably satisfactory nature of the results obtained from the use of the permanganates in this affection (diphtheria), as well as in scarlatina, by Dr C. Bell, to whom is due the merit of having originated the treatment, are deserving the most serious attention on the part of the profession."<sup>1</sup>—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

C. BELL.

Edinburgh, February 20, 1867.

<sup>1</sup> The Alkaline Permanganates and their Uses, by John Muter, late assistant-demonstrator in Chemistry, Andersonian University, Glasgow, p. 40.