

Alexander James, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed.

DR JAMES died on 7th April 1932, in his eighty-second year, at his home in Haddington, to which he had retired only three years ago. Apart from increasing deafness, he was possessed of a mental ability which rendered him a most interesting companion capable of discussing all sorts of subjects.

After graduating in Medicine at Edinburgh University he studied at Leipzig, and later settled in practice in Edinburgh. He lectured as an extra-mural teacher, first on Physiology and later on Practice of Medicine.

He was associated with the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, as Resident Physician, Assistant Physician, Physician in charge of Wards, and finally as Consulting Physician. Dr James was much beloved by his patients, on behalf of whom he spared no pains in ministering to their needs. He was a popular and successful teacher and particularly so when, as Physician, he lectured on Clinical Medicine.

For a number of years he acted as Consulting Physician to the Edinburgh City Hospital, and in this capacity he proved a shrewd and active helper to those on the staff.

Dr James was a remarkable personality in many ways. He held strong views upon many subjects, but, though fond of controversy, he listened sympathetically to the opinions of those with whom he did not agree, and an argument with him was always a real pleasure to both parties. Dr James made several contributions to the literature of phthisis and other subjects, but it was rather as a teacher that he impressed the younger medical men of his day. He wrote many topical songs, and his *Divulgations of a Doctor*, published as recently as 1924, contains a number of articles which give the clearest picture of the Doctor as many of us knew him. A truly lovable man, he will be long remembered for his great social gifts.

Dr James was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1889 and some of his work appears in the Society's *Transactions*.

R. A. F.