

News, Notes and Queries

Crawford was born there on 21 July 1857. He qualified at Edinburgh in 1881, and immediately entered Netley and passed into the Indian Medical Service. In twenty years' time he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel, and at the end of thirty years' service he retired 'with extra pension' in 1911. He rejoined early in the war of 1914-18, served in hospital ships for four and a half years, and was mentioned in despatches. His younger brother, too, had a distinguished career in the same service.

Crawford made several contributions to the history of British India, but his name will live through his two large books, the *Roll* already mentioned, and the *History of the Indian Medical Service 1600-1913*, published in 1915. This *History* 'grew out of a projected preface to a list of I.M.S. officers', until, as Crawford says, it seemed to deal *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*. Although he disclaimed all originality and called himself a mere compiler, his book is a most learned and very interesting account of the evolution of a service intimately bound up with the military and the civil life of the British in India, throughout the three and a half centuries of their presence there. Crawford records many passages of heroism and self-sacrifice, as well as the invaluable but unspectacular work of the ordinary serving officers. It is much more than a mere chronicle: he covers in special chapters such general topics as Rank, Pay, Furlough, Pensions, Examinations, and Administration. He also described the contributions made by I.M.S. officers to the exploration and the philology of their adopted land, as well as to science and literature. He does not hide the failures, recording courts martial as well as honours. Hospitals and medical education are surveyed, and he records the medical societies and the medical journals which sprang up in India to flourish or fade. It is no wonder that this wealth of well-arranged material fills two fat volumes. The title-page is adorned with a quotation from the Psalms, properly referenced by chapter and verse, a witness to his Scottish upbringing in 'true religion and sound learning'.

When the *Roll* came to publication fifteen years later, he gave it also a Biblical motto: I Samuel iv, 21—the one sardonic word, Ichabod. The *Roll* is of course a book of reference 711 pages long, not a book to be read. It is even more clearly a monument to Crawford's accurate industry than was the *History*. The careers of 6,156 men, not to mention the 'supplementary' and 'special' lists, are fully recorded in summary form. The wealth of detail he digested goes far beyond what can have been available in the official records.

Particularly in the notes of military service something of the departed glory is 'enshrined to a life beyond life', through the loving care of one retired officer for his old service. It was a privilege and a lesson in application to know this modest Scottish gentleman in the evening of his life.

W. R. LE FANU

THE CENTENARY OF A FALSE PROPHECY

A WARNING TO REVIEWERS

IN 1858 the first edition of Gray's *Anatomy* was published. It is a rare thing for a medical book to live for more than twenty years. Gray's *Anatomy* is still with us, now in its thirty-first edition.

This is what *The Medical Times and Gazette* (1859, N.S., xviii, 241) said of its first

News, Notes and Queries

edition. It is a long review covering three whole pages of double columns. It opens with these words:

It is a serious thing to review a book like this of Mr. Gray's. One sits down to the task with the oppressive feeling of sadness which comes over a man when he has seen a wrong done, when he finds the occasion of such wrong has been unnecessarily sought for, and that the ill deed is after all ill done. . . .

Mr. Gray has published a book that was not wanted, and which, at any rate, ought not to have been dedicated to Sir Benjamin Brodie. It is low and unscientific in tone; and it has been compiled, for the most part, in a manner inconsistent with the professions of honesty which we find in the preface. It is not even up to the mark of the existing vade-mecums. Mr. Gray has worked under a false estimate of his duties as a teacher, and without fairly appreciating the intellectual condition and requirements of the present race of Medical students. A more unphilosophical amalgam of anatomical details and crude Surgery we have never met with. . . .

The reviewer proceeds to accuse Gray of having abstracted and paraphrased Quain's *Anatomy* reproducing extracts from the two volumes in parallel columns. He does not seem to realize that Anatomy being a factual subject must lead to similar statements in rival publications. His quotations and comparisons are by no means similar. But they allow him to write that 'It is our duty to declare that Mr. Gray's book is not only superfluous and unsatisfactory but that it is not honest.'

It must not be supposed that these are by any means the only passages which might be quoted or referred to in substantiation of the serious charges we have made. Our difficulty has not been to find such passages, but to know which to select from many equally startling. We may say, further, that those who will take the trouble to compare the plan of the book with that of Quain, and will examine the two books together, chapter by chapter, section by section, paragraph by paragraph, sentence by sentence, parenthesis by parenthesis, and oftentimes word by word, must admit that the interests of the Profession demand a full exposure. They will see that even in copying plates Mr. Gray has copied mistakes, and that he has made errors of description by imperfectly transcribing Quain.

Any one who sees all this must find it extremely difficult to speak of Mr. Gray's book in anything like terms of moderation. But we are conscious that, as the matter stands, we have been very temperate in our censure, and are so in the concluding remark that we feel confident every right-minded reader will join with us in repudiating this book of Mr. Gray's, and in lamenting that those for whom it was mainly intended, the young men of the Profession, whom we would fain see looking up to and emulating their teachers, as men of honour as well as of science, should be exposed to the contagion of such an example of debased compilation and unscrupulous assumption.

Poor Gray died two years later, at the age of thirty-four, carried away by a severe attack of smallpox, but the name of the cocksure critic and inaccurate prophet is lost in oblivion.

WILLIAM BROCKBANK

LEWIS DURLACHER *Surgeon-Chiropodist (1792-1864)*

J. C. DAGNALL, M.CH.S. (15 Heath Crescent, Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire) writes:

Lewis Durlacher (1792-1864) was a surgeon-chiropodist who was in practice for many years at 15 Old Burlington Street, London. He was apparently far ahead of his time in the able and ethical way he carried on his calling. Sir B. Brodie, Dr. Chambers, Sir Charles Clarke, Sir