



W. GORDON HOLMES.

OBITUARY

W. GORDON HOLMES, M.D.

AFTER a long and active, though somewhat secluded life, there passed away during 1927 one who had rendered to laryngology much more valuable service than has been generally recognised. Dr Gordon Holmes was primarily the historian of laryngology, and while collaborating with the late Sir Morell Mackenzie in the production of his great work, enhanced its value and interest by supplying the literary and historical elements for which it is so remarkable.

Holmes was born in Dublin, and while a Nationalist in politics he was very moderate in his views, being at the same time a Protestant in religion. He had a wealth of learning and took delight in the study of Roman History, with the result that he published an important work, *The Age of Justinian and Theodora*, a history of the sixth century A.D., in two volumes, a second edition appearing in 1912. This is a well-documented, judicial and most readable book. His *History of Laryngology from the Earliest Times* was published in 1881, and was translated into French and German. Among his more technical works were *Principles of Health and Hygiene*, 1874; *Physiology and Hygiene of the Voice for Speakers and Singers*, third edition, 1900; *Physiology of the Vocal Registers in Male and Female*, 1885. He was essentially a student and seemed to shrink from publicity, appearing to find congenial atmosphere in the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, where he could carry on a quiet and useful work and seclude himself among his beloved books.

His activities as a walker were seriously curtailed by the fracture of one of his thigh bones, an injury which he sustained in 1916. His health was much impaired by his inability to take exercise, and, apparently having well-preserved sight, he was able to enjoy the pursuit of literature until his death, which took place in February of last year, when he was in his eighty-first year.

The portrait shows him as he was when at the height of his activity.

JAMES DUNDAS-GRANT.