

John Glaister, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.G., LL.D.

DR JOHN GLAISTER died at his residence on December 17, 1932.

Born in Lanark in 1856, John Glaister began his career in a law office, but shortly afterwards gave this up to enter upon the study of medicine at Glasgow University, from which he graduated as Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1879. Almost from the time of his graduation he made a special study of the subjects of Forensic Medicine and Public Health, and in 1881 he commenced to teach Forensic Medicine at the Royal Infirmary School in Glasgow.

Seven years after this he was elected Professor of Forensic Medicine in St Mungo's College, which position he held until 1898, when he succeeded Professor Simpson in the Chair of Forensic Medicine and Public Health in the University of Glasgow. When the University decided to separate the departments of Forensic Medicine and Public Health, Glaister elected to retain the former, and this he held until his retirement about a year before his death.

Glaister was one of the best-known practitioners in Medical Jurisprudence in this country, and acted for the Crown in almost all the medico-legal cases in Glasgow for a great many years. His services have been of the greatest value in the elucidation of many criminal cases, and his unique experience of crime and criminals will be greatly missed by the legal authorities.

Although Glaister did not interest himself particularly with scientific research, his enormous practical experience led to his recognition as an authority on his particular subject, and his textbook on Medical Jurisprudence has become one of the standard works in the English language.

Professor Glaister was a Fellow and former President of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, and a Diplomate in Public Health of the University of Cambridge. He was also a Fellow of many societies both at home and abroad, among others at home being the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1898), the Chemical Society, the Royal Sanitary Institute, and the Royal Institute of Public Health. He was a Vice-President of the Medico-Legal Societies of New York and of Great Britain, and an Honorary Academician of the Physico-Chemical Academy of Palermo.

Dr Glaister's many activities in connection with medicine did not prevent him taking part in public life. His services as President of the Conservative Association of the St Rollox Parliamentary Division were for many years of great value to the cause of Unionism. He was in close touch with many civic institutions. He represented the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons on the Board of Governors of the Glasgow School of Art, and was one of the first lay members of the Glasgow Art Club. He was interested in the subject of cremation, and was connected with the Scottish Burial and Cremation Society.

Dr Glaister had a distinguished career, and the valuable work which he did will long be remembered.

S. S.