

Professor William Morse Grailly Hewitt.**By Professor A. R. Simpson.**

(Read March 5, 1894.)

Dr William Morse Grailly Hewitt, who was born on 3rd August 1828, matriculated with honours in Chemistry in the University of London, studied medicine in the University College, and, on graduating as M.B. in 1850, obtained honours in all the four branches of the final examination. His knowledge of the scientific departments was very complete, and he retained his acquaintance with Anatomy, Physiology, Botany, and Chemistry throughout his career. After studying for a time in Paris he settled in London, became associated with St Mary's Hospital, where for some years he acted as Registrar, and was Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy and Zoology.

In 1855 he took the higher degree of M.D. in London University, and the following year became a Member of the College of Physicians.

He had been alone among his compeers to win honours in Midwifery at his graduation, and he soon began to direct his activities mainly to the obstetric department of medicine, and was largely influential, along with Dr Tyler Smith, in founding the London Obstetrical Society, of which he was the first Secretary. This office he held for six years, when he became one of the Vice-Presidents, and afterwards President. In 1858 he was appointed Physician to the Samaritan Hospital for Women, and in 1859 Physician to the British Lying-in Hospital. He had already become Assistant Physician-Accoucheur to St Mary's Hospital, and Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children in the St Mary's Hospital Medical School. In 1865 he was called to fill the Chair of Midwifery in the University College of London, becoming at the same time Physician-Accoucheur to the University College Hospital, and Director of the Obstetrical Department. The duties of the professorship and its associated offices he fulfilled with

assiduity and distinction for twenty-one years, during which he published a valuable work on the Diseases of Women, and many important memoirs, which placed him in the front rank of the obstetricians of his time, and led to his being elected as Honorary Fellow of the Obstetrical and Gynæcological Societies of Edinburgh, Berlin, Boston, Helsingfors, &c.

Whilst his most numerous and important contributions were made to Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Professor Grailly Hewitt wrote also some papers of permanent value and interest on Whooping-cough and other diseases of childhood, published a suggestive treatise on Nutrition as the Basis of Treatment in Disease, and more recently discussed, in two communications to *The British Medical Journal*, the subject of Visual Disturbance as a Cause of Sea-Sickness.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1889. He had retired for some time from active service, and died in London on 27th August 1893, "in such peace," says the *Lancet's* obituarist, "that the beautiful lines of his well-known John William Inchbald seemed to be written as if for him—

‘ Is it deep sleep, or is it rather death ?
But anyhow it is, and sweet is rest ;
No more the doubtful blessing of the breath,
Our God hath said that silence is the best.’ ”