

Dr Sanderson. By Dr Buchan.

(Read February 4, 1895.)

Dr James Sanderson was born at Dunbar on May 21, 1812, and died March 28, 1891. He was educated at the Grammar School there, and thereafter entered the University of Edinburgh as a medical student.

After graduation, his first appointment was that of Surgeon on board the East India Company's ships "Marquis of Camden" and "Duke of Argyll," on voyages to St Helena, Bombay, China, Calcutta, and Ceylon. In 1836 he was appointed Surgeon in the Madras Medical Service, and in 1837 did duty with the artillery corps at St Thomas's Mount.

He was appointed in 1838 by Lord Elphinstone, then Governor of Madras, to organise the medical department in connection with the system of convict labour instituted by his Lordship. For the successful accomplishment of this Dr Sanderson received the thanks of the Government. He was next appointed one of the medical officers of the Neilgherries, which post he occupied for the next three years.

He was placed on the Presidency Medical Staff in 1844 as Port and Marine Surgeon, and afterwards was appointed District Surgeon by the Marquis of Tweeddale, at that time Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Madras. Shortly thereafter he became medical attendant to his Lordship and suite, and subsequently served in the same capacity to Sir Henry Pottinger, who succeeded Lord Tweeddale as Governor of Madras; and also to Sir George Berkeley and General Strachey, Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army. In 1854 he was appointed Garrison Surgeon of Fort St George, Madras, and accompanied Lord Harris as medical attendant in his several tours through the provinces, and returned to England with his Lordship in 1859.

In the following year he returned to Madras, was appointed to the Governor's Body Guard, was sent to Galle to meet Sir

William Dennison, whom he accompanied on his tours throughout the Presidency in 1861–62. He acted as medical attendant to His Excellency, and also to his successor, Sir Hope Grant, and their suites. In May 1863 he was placed on the retired India list.

From that time he resided in Edinburgh, and took an earnest and active part in professional, scientific, philanthropic, and religious movements. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1863, and for some time was a Member of Council. In the same year he became a Member of the Scottish Meteorological Society, and a Member of its Council in 1865, Honorary Treasurer in 1872, and Honorary Treasurer to the Ben Nevis Observatory in 1883, when the Observatory was established. He was most regular in attendance at Council, Committee, and General Meetings, and devoted a very large portion of his time not merely to the more special duties of Treasurer, but also in forwarding the extension of its membership, and in promoting whatever tended to increase the efficiency of the work of the Society.

From the beginning of his career to the end, Dr Sanderson was an ardent learner. After settling in Edinburgh, he attended several of the medical classes of the University with the view of being brought more abreast with the different departments of his profession; and latterly, when Dr Whyte began his classes for young men on Sunday evenings, which are in no small degree academical in character, he, and his friend, Mr Donald Beith, whose obituary was read at last meeting, were among the most regular attenders of the class.

His professional success in India was the result of the remarkable openness and teachableness of his mind in quest of information from all quarters, his firmness of character when required, but, above all, to the unfailing cheeriness of the man, which inspired hope and ultimate recovery to many a sick-bed. In these various capacities he was able to perform most effective service by his earnestness of purpose, his enthusiastic nature, and his singularly genial and kindly manner.