OBITUARY

Thomas Pridgin Teale, F.R.S.

THOMAS PRIDGIN TEALE, junior, came from an old medical stock, his father Thomas Pridgin Teale who died in 1867, having been for many years an eminent surgeon on the old Infirmary staff, and F.R.S. and the inventor of the well-known Teale's amputation. Thomas Pridgin Teale, junior, was born in 1831, educated at the Leeds Grammar School and Winchester College. From Winchester he went to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1852 in mathematics with high honours. He then became a medical student at King's College, where he worked under Fergusson and Bowman. Later Sir William Bowman appointed him his assistant at Moorfields Eye Hospital. After taking the M.R.C.S.Eng., in 1855, he spent six months on the Continent, chiefly in Paris with Liebreich, where he became familiar with the use of the newly invented ophthalmoscope. On returning home he took the M.A. and M.B., Oxford, and the F.R.C.S. Eng., in 1857. He became Demonstrator of Anatomy and then Lecturer in that subject at the Leeds School of Medicine, and subsequently Lecturer in Surgery, 1856-1876. In 1864, he was appointed Surgeon to the General Infirmary at Leeds, holding office for 20 years, when he became Consulting Surgeon with six beds and these he used for another 20 years when he retired from practice.

As his hospital appointment did not embrace ophthalmology he established a clinique in rooms behind his house in Park Row for this special work and continued it for several years. He was a Crown member of the General Medical Council from 1876 to 1901. On the establishment of the University of Leeds in 1904 he received the honorary degree of D.Sc. He was an active member of the Board of the Leeds Infirmary from 1864 to 1904, rarely attending meetings after that time.

When Pridgin Teale settled in Leeds he intended to confine himself to ophthalmic work, but before he had established himself in this branch he was drawn off to assist his father in his large surgical practice, and so he came to combine surgery and ophthalmology.

Though he was not a prolific writer, he was an enthusiastic and excellent teacher sparing neither time nor effort in pointing out to his students the various phases of diseases and their treatment, illustrating his remarks whenever possible by drawings and diagrams, upon the value of which as an aid to memory he was most insistent.

His own case books are full of figures and diagrams rapidly drawn in coloured chalks, accompanied by a few concise remarks. Small in stature, and delicately built, he had beautiful hands—hands made for an operator. His ophthalmic operations were well planned, swiftly and neatly executed with great attention to detail.

Among his most important early writings were papers on the use of mercury inunction in iritis; bulb-shaped probes in lacrimal obstruction; extraction of soft cataract by suction, an operation which he practised most successfully using a suction curette of his own devising. All through his life he was a steadfast upholder of simple extraction of cataract without iridectomy making the corneal incision midway between the upper corneal margin and the upper level of the pupil. In 1893, he delivered the Bowman Lecture with this as his thesis. At the meeting of the British Medical Association in Leeds in 1889 he delivered the address in Surgery on "Detail in Surgery."

Teale was a great sanitarian and a pioneer in house sanitation and was for many years President of the Yorkshire Association of Sanitary Inspectors upon whom his high ideals had a very marked influence. Months of experiments and research into the economic aspects of coal combustion resulted in the now well-known Teale "Fire Grate" (since somewhat modified by his eldest son) which created a revolution in the design of the old wasteful fire grate, and a paper on this subject in 1888 procured for him the Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Enthusiasm, simplicity, and gentleness of character were the outstanding features of a charming personality. Teale's one idea in his professional work was the good of his patient and to that he gave all his thought and energy. Money he never troubled about. Reputation for himself he never studied—the only reputation he cared for was that of his profession or of an operation which he knew to be valuable.

To the very last his enthusiasm was remarkable; he was keenly interested in everything about him. Fishing was his one great hobby and recreation. He will be greatly missed in Leeds and Yorkshire where his kindly interest and sympathy in every form of social service was never failing.

H. SECKER WALKER.

CORRESPONDENCE

CASE OF IMPLANTATION CYST OF IRIS AND CILIARY BODY

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIR,—The interesting case of "Implantation Cyst of Iris and Ciliary Body" in your issue of November, communicated by Dr. Barrie Brownlee, gives one to think.

It no doubt resulted from epithelial cells being carried into the