

in part defrayed by diverting into the University coffers the Government "South Australian Scholarship" of £800 a year from their purpose of sending young South Australian students from the State to the Old Country for the completion of their education. For thirty-seven years Dr. Stirling was thus closely associated with our University and probably no one has done more than he, if so much as he, in moulding the policy and setting the standard of the medical school of this institution.

In 1882 he was appointed one of the Honorary Medical Officers of the Adelaide Hospital, at a time when there was no division into physicians, surgeons or specialists; but when shortly afterwards this distinction was made, he became one of the Honorary Surgeons and for several years was my corresponding colleague. When the Hospital trouble arose in 1896 he resigned with the rest of the staff and did not subsequently return to work there. However, in 1904 he was made a Consulting Surgeon and kept the position for the rest of his life. He was the first surgeon in our State to perform successfully in a case of uterine myoma, supravaginal hysterectomy by abdominal incision, in another case of uterine carcinoma total hysterectomy *per vaginam*, and to drain an abscess of the brain in the temporo-sphenoidal lobe secondary to disease of the ear. In conjunction with myself he wrote the article on Hydatid Disease in Clifford Allbutt's System of Medicine in 1897, which was re-written for the next edition of Allbutt and Rolleston in 1907.

He was elected a member of the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association in 1881, about two years after its commencement, and in 1888 was chosen as its tenth President. In his retiring address he reviewed the changes recently effected at the Hospital in the differentiation of the staff into physicians, surgeons and specialists, the completion of the medical school of the University and the establishment of the Branch, and then pointed out the improved prospects for the future raised by these new conditions, certain dangers ahead, and some definite *desiderata*, such as a medical act. His address revealed great breadth of outlook, depth of thought and vigour and purity of language.

In connexion with our Intercolonial Medical Congresses he took a prominent part. South Australia, as you remember, and as you will never forget, has the credit of inaugurating them through the initiative of Dr. Poulton. The profession did me the honour of electing me as the first President, and Dr. Stirling it was arranged should be leader in its social functions. He contributed a paper during our proceedings on "The State, the Practitioner and the Public." At the second congress in Melbourne in 1889 he was President of the Section of Surgery, and gave an opening address on "Is Surgery a Science?" Some of you will doubtless remember how at that session Dr. W. Gardner and Dr. J. Davies Thomas pleaded for the treatment of hydatids by Lindemann's operation of free incision and evacuation in place of the usual plan of draining by aspiration, or by the trochar and cannula and rubber tube, and how much

opposition was aroused. However, at the third Congress in Sydney in 1892, this battle was fought to a finish in a set discussion. Dr. Thomas was ill, Dr. Gardner was in the chair as President of the Section of Surgery, so Dr. Stirling read an exhaustive and telling paper on four and a half years' experience of the treatment of hydatids in the Adelaide Hospital, showing the superiority of incision over aspiration or tapping. Dr. Lendon opened the discussion, and I supported him, and after all had been said by various speakers, Dr. Gardner gave a judicial summing up, and the question has never been re-opened. At the Australasian Medical Congress of 1905, held in Adelaide, Dr. Stirling occupied the proud post of President, gave the inaugural address and carried through all the fixtures of the session in a most masterly manner.

On re-reading in the transactions of our congresses the printed papers and addresses of Dr. Stirling we are struck with their superior quality and recognize in them the evidence of culture as well as capacity, we breathe as it were a university atmosphere and feel the influence of university residence and of the *artium magister*, and we find in them a philosophic tone, an academic style and a classic diction none too common in our professional deliverances. And even in less pretentious efforts such as his introductory lecture on physiology above referred to, or a letter on sanitary reform in the daily press, the same characteristic care, capability and culture are evident. And as you know, in any important gathering, whether dinner, deputation or public meeting where a speaker or a spokesman was needed, he could be relied on to say what would be appropriate and to put it forcibly. In December, 1889, at the University Commemoration Dr. Stirling gave the oration on "The Aims and Methods of Biological Science," and in the January number of the *Australasian Medical Gazette* appeared an editorial from which we may be allowed to quote an extract:—

Dr. Stirling's thoughtful, scholarly, and indeed masterly address. . . . deserves a far wider circle of hearers than those who had the pleasure of listening to it. The eloquent and able advocate of the attractive and useful sides of biological science has no need to apologize for the want of the arts and refinement of a cultured style. Dr. Stirling's address throughout is marked by conspicuous superiority, and is alike worthy of his noble *Alma Mater* and of the holy cause of science, which he has so devotedly and faithfully championed. . . . We count the students of the University of Adelaide happy in having so able and devoted a teacher as Dr. Stirling.

Simply from lack of time I cannot even touch upon various activities in other fields of science, natural history, ethnology, palaeontology and political economy; on them he left his enduring mark, and through them he acquired his most highly prized title, the F.R.S. (London).

Well known to all graduates in medicine of the University of Adelaide and to most of those in arts and science, his memory can never die in South Australia, where his name will always be recalled as that of one of her most gifted sons.