

necessities that I should do so before the present audience ; for it is not we, but the Cape people who should erect a statue to him : to him, Charles D. Bell, who did, and accomplished, and suffered so much for them and amongst them, through all the best years of his long period of a most hard-working life and publicly useful career.

C. P. S.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, M.D. By George Seton, Esq.,
Advocate.

Dr. William Robertson was born in Edinburgh on the 8th of January 1818. He was the eldest son of Mr. George Robertson, Keeper of the Records in H.M. General Register House, by Eliza Brown, his wife, sister to General Sir George Brown, of Crimean fame, and Mr. Peter Brown, well known as an agriculturist and land valuator in the north of Scotland. He obtained his early education at the Edinburgh Academy, from which he passed to the University ; and, after completing the medical curriculum, he continued his studies at Paris, Berlin, and Vienna. In 1839 he graduated M.D. of Edinburgh, his Thesis being on Enlargement of the Heart, which proved to be the disease from which he suffered prior to his death. Four years afterwards he was admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He acted for some time as a physician in the Royal Infirmary, the Fever and Cholera Hospitals, and the New Town Dispensary ; and, holding the appointment of Inspector-Physician of the British Civil Hospital at Renkioi, in virtue of the recommendation of Sir Robert Christison, he served as a physician during the Crimean war. He was at one time editor of the *Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, to which he contributed several papers. On the resignation of Dr. Stark, in 1874, he was appointed to the post of Superintendent of the Statistical Department in the General Registry Office of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, having previously acted as Medical Registrar for Scotland. One of his latest official works was the preparation of the Report prefixed to the first volume relative to the Scottish Census of 1881. In 1876, on the death of Dr. Warburton Begbie, he became medical officer to the Scottish Widows' Fund, having by that time gained large experience in matters connected with Life

Insurance, in the capacity of medical referee to the Guardian and Scottish Equitable Societies.

Distinguished by his diagnostic skill and his thorough knowledge of therapeutics, but for his modest and retiring disposition Dr. Robertson might, in the opinion of competent judges, have taken a very distinguished place as a consulting physician ; and, owing to his high reputation as a mathematician and a statist, he was eminently fitted for the two appointments which he held at the time of his death. His capacity for figures was of a very high order. He did not hesitate, however, to facilitate his elaborate calculations by the use of the arithmometer, which he was able to turn to the best account, owing to his remarkable memory and his powers of numerical combination.

Nor were his acquirements confined to physical and mathematical science. While well versed in classical as well as modern literature, he was an excellent linguist, being familiar with French, German, Italian, and Turkish, and possessing a fair acquaintance with Spanish and Dutch.

In social life he was a universal favourite, in consequence of his kindly and genial disposition, his fund of anecdote, and his well-stored mind. One of the original members of the Edinburgh Evening Club, he seldom failed to appear at its bi-weekly meetings, where the blank which his lamented death has caused will not easily be supplied. His cordial sympathy with the young was an interesting feature in his character. He was a devoted member of the Church of Scotland, and his political tendencies were Conservative.

In connection with his official appointment in the Registrar-General's Department, it may be mentioned that the office of Joint Deputy Keepers of the Records was held, in the first instance, by Dr. Robertson's grandfather and granduncle, in succession to whom it was held, also jointly, by his father and uncle, and singly, at a later period, by his brother George Brown Robertson, Writer to the Signet, who died in 1873. Accordingly, the official connection of the family with the General Register House extended over a period of upwards of a hundred years.

Dr. Robertson became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1860. His death occurred at his residence in Albany Street on the 25th of

August 1882, at the comparatively early age of sixty-four. He had been in failing health for about two years, but it was only a week before he died that he became seriously ill. His funeral took place in Warriston Cemetery on the 29th of August, and was attended by a large concourse of attached relatives and friends.

Dr. Robertson is survived by two sisters, with one of whom he resided, while the other is the wife of Mr. John Gillespie, Writer to the Signet, and Secretary to the Royal Company of Archers. His youngest brother, Alexander, a promising artillery officer, was one of the many victims of the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

Since the above was prepared, the writer has received a letter from one of Dr. Robertson's medical compeers (Dr. George Bell) in reply to an application on the subject of his chess-playing, in which he says:—"Dr. Robertson was no ordinary chess-player; he *understood* the game, and practised it with judgment and skill. I know this, for the 'chequered field' was our favourite meeting-place during many years. Always pleasant there as elsewhere, Edinburgh does not know what a rare son she has lost. Though undemonstrative, the Royal Society had few such members as William Robertson."

SIR DANIEL MACNEE. By the Rev. Walter C. Smith, D.D.

Daniel Macnee's life, like that of most hard workers, was not a very eventful one. Its chief incidents were its productions, and these were nowise startling, but rather such as might have been looked for—fruits of patient labour, and proofs of quiet growth. Born at Fintry in 1806, he lost his father while yet a mere child; but he was happy in having a mother who could understand and guide his youth. Very likely that youth puzzled her a little at first, for she would fain have trained him for merchandise and money-making, and his gifts did not lie at all in that line. The sleepy valley of the Endrick, among the green Campsie hills, had to produce its genius like other Scottish glens; and probably his mother had her anxiety, as well as her pride, when it began to dawn upon her that she had given birth to one of that wayward race. I suppose