

modation, and he gave precision to the optical methods for ascertaining and estimating anomalies of refraction. In all of these researches he not only showed himself to be an able mathematician and physicist, but he enlisted the interest of the medical profession at large by the careful clinical records given of individual cases suffering from anomalies of vision, and by the ingenuity and efficiency of the means devised for their relief. Donders also contributed papers on Physiological Time in Psychological Processes, the Nature of Vowel-Tones, Speech, and the Cardiac Sounds. All his writings are characterised by exactitude of statement, facility in illustration, and graceful diction. The subject is always treated with the hand of a master. Of commanding stature, a dignified presence, a large Apollo-like head with a luxuriant wealth of hair, dark somewhat rugged features, and eyes that sparkled with the lustre of genius, Donders was a man whose personality is not likely soon to fade from the memory. Eminent among physiologists, chief among oculists, a great teacher, and a good citizen, his life-work is thus summed up by his friend Moleschott:—"Of him it would be difficult to pronounce whether he was greater or more prolific as an investigator, or clearer or more effective as an expositor, or, lastly, more duteous and helpful as a healer of that organ which is the portal of wisdom and love."

Rev. James Grant, D.D., D.C.L. Oxon. By A. Beatson Bell,
Esq., Advocate.

(Read January 5, 1891.)

James Grant was the third son of the Rev. Dr Andrew Grant, proprietor of the estate of Limepotts, in the county of Perth, and minister successively of Portmoak, Kilmarnock, Canongate, Trinity College, and St Andrews, Edinburgh, Dean of the Chapel Royal, and Chaplain in Ordinary to George III., George IV., and William IV.

He was born in the manse of Portmoak, Kinross-shire, on 23rd January 1800, and when James was quite a child, his father was translated to Kilmarnock. He there received the elements of his education, and on his father's subsequent translation to Edinburgh

he was sent to the High School of this city, and afterwards attended the University, both in Arts and Divinity. His career there was marked with distinction, especially in the field of Classics, and in Greek he was a class-fellow and rival of Dr William Veitch of Jedburgh, the learned author of the well-known work on the Greek irregular verb. It was a tradition that, at least in one session, James Grant succeeded in standing first, while Veitch was second in the Greek class.

He was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and almost immediately thereafter, in 1824, was ordained minister of the first charge of South Leith. There he remained with much acceptance to the large congregation for nineteen years, notwithstanding some tempting offers of translation. He early was acknowledged as a leader in the Church Courts, and in 1837 was one of a deputation (which included Dr Chalmers and other eminent divines) who presented in person the congratulatory address from the Church of Scotland to Queen Victoria on her accession. In the same year he was one of a deputation sent by the General Assembly to inquire into the religious condition of the people of the Island of Skye.

By this time the troublous events of the "ten years' conflict" had commenced, and Dr Grant was much engaged in its various controversies. Many of these are now matters of somewhat remote history, and it would be improper in a notice such as this to stir embers of former fires. It may be enough to mention that when the party opposed to those with whom Dr Grant acted proceeded to the extreme act of deposition of some ministers in the Presbytery of Strathbogie, Dr Grant and his friends denied the legality of the proceedings, and deliberately visited Strathbogie for the purpose of holding ministerial communion with the deposed ministers. For this ecclesiastical offence the majority of the Assembly inflicted the nominal punishment of suspension from judicial functions for nine months. During his suspension he received a largely-signed address of confidence from his flock, and the same year (1842) the University of Glasgow conferred on him the degree of D.D. At this time also he was appointed chaplain to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, an honour which he much valued, and which he retained till his death. Next year (1843) saw the end of the ten years' conflict. The parish of St Mary's, Edinburgh,

had become vacant by the demission of Dr Henry Gray, who had gone out with the Free Church, and Dr Grant was offered by the Town Council the presentation. After full deliberation he accepted the translation, and the rest of his active ministerial life was passed in St Mary's. At a later period of the same year he was offered by the Town Council a presentation to one of the charges of the High Church (St Giles), but he declined the offer. He was also then appointed Collector of the Widows' Fund of the Ministers and Professors, an office which he held until 1860, and in which his remarkable talent for business found congenial scope. For ten years after his removal to Edinburgh he was much occupied in a controversy which, in its day, excited bitter feeling, but which is happily now nearly forgotten—viz., the Edinburgh Annuity Tax question, in regard to the manner in which funds for the payment of the stipends of the ministers of Edinburgh were raised. Dr Grant, as one of these ministers, was a prominent figure in the discussions, and ultimately when the controversy was settled by legislation on the footing of the payment of a capital sum by the Corporation of Edinburgh, the interest of which was to take the place of the old tax, and to be applied by a newly-constituted Ecclesiastical Commission, Dr Grant was at once elected a member of that Commission, and ultimately became its chairman. This was the period of his greatest activity, both in parochial work and in the Church Courts, and in 1851 he became Moderator of the General Assembly. The same year he received from Oxford at Commemoration the honorary degree of D.C.L., the only other recipient of that degree among the clergymen of the Church of Scotland having been Dr Chalmers. In 1860 he began to retire from active life outside his parochial work. His attendance in Church Courts almost ceased, and in that year he resigned the Collectorship of the Widows' Fund. In 1871 he resigned his parochial charge, and for the last nineteen years of his life he lived in retirement from active ministerial work, devoting himself much to the management of various religious, charitable, and educational institutions, in the governing bodies of which he held a seat. He was for more than fifty years an Honorary Fellow and Chaplain of the Harveian Society, and at the annual meetings of that body he came in contact with many of the most eminent medical men in Scotland, including many Fellows of this Society.

He became a Fellow of our Society in 1851, and for many years was a regular attender at the meetings, and he served for several years on the Council. Although not himself a scientific worker, he took much interest in hearing of the progress of science in the world, but the papers on the literary side of the Society, then more numerous than of late years they have been, probably had greater attractions for him. He passed away on 28th July 1890, at the ripe age of ninety, preserving his intellect unclouded and his interest in life unabated to the end.

Although he could not be described as a great preacher, his pulpit ministrations were appreciated by his successive flocks, and his kindly interest in their welfare secured the affection of many. Probably his most characteristic quality was his sagacity as a counsellor, whether amid the turmoil of ecclesiastical strife, or, later in life, in the management of the numerous societies and institutions with which he was connected. His memory will be cherished as that of one who realised the dignity of his high profession, and exhibited in his person some of the best qualities of a Scottish clergyman of a school now fast passing away.

Professor Kolbe. By Prof. Crum Brown.

Professor Herman Kolbe was the eldest son of the Rev. Carl Kolbe of Elliehausen, near Göttingen, and was born on the 27th of September 1818. He was educated at home by his father till his fourteenth year, when he entered the Göttingen Gymnasium. In April 1838 he began the study of chemistry, under Wöhler, in the University of Göttingen, where he also acquired a thorough theoretical and practical knowledge of physics and mineralogy under Listing and Hausmann.

In 1842 Kolbe was appointed assistant to Bunsen in the chemical laboratory of the University of Marburg. He took the degree of Ph.D. in that university in the following year, the title of his thesis being "On the Products of the Action of Chlorine on Bisulphide of Carbon."

In the autumn of 1845 he removed to London as assistant to Lyon Playfair. In the spring of 1847 he returned for a short time to Marburg, and in the autumn of the same year removed to