

## IN MEMORIAM

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 DAVID BERRY HART, M.D., F.R.C.P. EDINBURGH
 

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BY ROBERT L. DICKINSON, M.D.

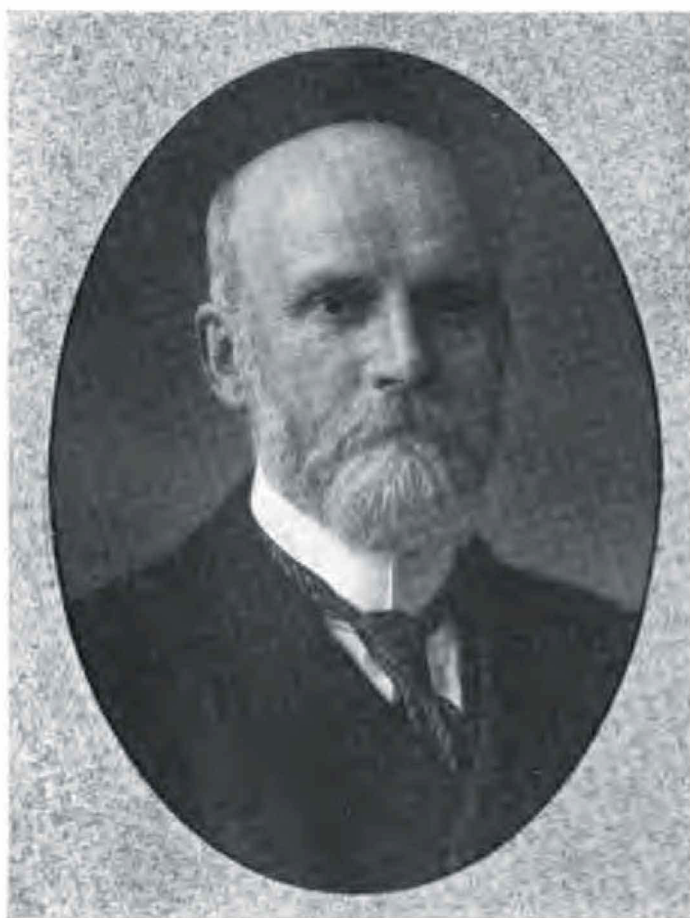
*New York*

FROM the fields of teaching and stirring debate and original research in our twin specialty the death of Berry Hart removes a figure prominent for forty years. To the Seniors in this Society the writings of our Honorary Fellow meant very much. To the Juniors his example will furnish keen stimulus. He set up landmarks and boundaries. He bred teachers and thinkers. His work was done at a time that was critical. Hart-and-Barbour was a name to conjure with, and that textbook rightly bulked large. It was not merely that it drew from varied sources with the catholic learning that knows no nationality; it was not alone that it was well-balanced and adequate and complete, or that it was equipped with illustrations singularly direct and simple as teaching stuff; it was based, beyond most books, on solid anatomical and microscopical studies—it was a pioneer. Published in the early eighties, it made what was the most important contribution, for the English speaking world, looking toward the establishment of gynecology as “a true, self-contained, scientifically founded specialty.” Thus to Edinburgh for many years did America look for the training of some of its ablest teachers. May that relation continue!

David Berry Hart, M.D., F.R.C.P., Edin., was born October 12, 1851, and died June 10, 1920, in his sixty-ninth year. He received his M.B. at the University of Edinburgh at twenty-six, then studied in Vienna, and returned to the University as private assistant with Professor Alexander R. Simpson. At twenty-nine he presented for the degree of M. D., his thesis on structural anatomy based on frozen sections, and won the gold medal and the Syme surgical fellowship. He collaborated with Professor Simpson on the plate on the genu-pectoral posture, and issued the Atlas on the Structural Anatomy of the Female Pelvic Floor. At thirty-three he was made Assistant Physician to the Royal Maternity Hospital and two years later Assistant Gynecologist to the Royal Infirmary, moving on to the Senior positions at thirty-eight and forty, respectively. In the early nineties he served as gynecologist to Leith Hospital. At thirty-two Hart began systematic teaching in the School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges and continued

to give courses on midwifery here until within a few weeks of his end. Here he collected a large and important museum of specimens and gave to their preservation and investigations very many hours and years of a full life. He was fertile indeed, publishing, between his thirtieth and thirty-second year, no less than twelve papers, and he wrote not only a "Guide to Midwifery" but observations on "Evolution and Heredity." Other activities were as Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians and as Examiner in Midwifery in the Universities of Edinburgh, Oxford, Birmingham and Liverpool. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Berlin Obstetrical Society, and Corresponding Fellow of the Leipzig Obstetrical Society, as well as one of our Honorary Fellows. In 1890 he was President of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. His College gave him the Victoria Jubilee Cullen Prize for the greatest benefit in practical medicine of the preceding four years.

To recall to memory a visit to Berry Hart is to summon back the series of surprises at his varied interests. This incessant scientific investigator at one time did a large general practice; this laboratory dweller lived in a beautiful home with a stately outlook; this strong man in debate was a kindly wit and courteous friend; this omniverous reader and student had done the first operations in Scotland for ruptured tubal pregnancy and advanced broad ligament gestation; and this mind, stored with learning, made even the medical student try to work out his own conclusions. He made men think. He roused men's scientific spirit. And one loves most to think of him in the museum, among the treasures that had made obstetric and gynecological history lighting us with the fire of the contagion of his enthusiasm.



D. Berry Hart