

**LIFE AND WORK OF
JAMES COMPTON
BURNETT, M.D.**

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Life and Work of James Compton Burnett, M.D. by J. H. Clarke

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J. H. CLARKE

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John W. Johnson

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Life and Work of
James Compton Burnett,
M.D.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
THE BURNETT MEMORIAL

EDITED BY
DR. J. H. CLARKE

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PREFACE

THE object of this little volume is twofold. In the first place it is intended to put into separate and permanent shape a sketch of the life and work of one of the most remarkable Healers of modern times; and in the second place it is desired to give an account of the movement which has taken place to raise a fitting memorial in his honour.

The form which this memorial is to take has been approved of by a large number of the late Dr. Burnett's friends and patients who have generously contributed to the fund; but it is felt that many more would like to assist if the design and the efforts already made towards carrying it out were brought to their knowledge.

The following pages will give this information. The form of the memorial decided upon is the founding of a professorship in connection with the British Homœopathic Association recently established "for the extension and development of Homœopathy in Great Britain." The chair which will carry the name of Dr. Burnett will

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be devoted to the teaching of HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE. It was as an original and resourceful PRACTITIONER of the Homœopathic Art that Dr. Burnett was pre-eminently distinguished ; and it is felt that to establish a chair devoted to the instruction of students in this most essential department of the Healing Art would form a living memorial in his honour, and at the same time spread abroad the fruits of his original labours.

Readers of this volume are invited to assist this movement by sending contributions to the Honorary Secretary of the Burnett Fund, Mrs. Helen Clarke, 30, Clarges Street, W. ; or to Mr. Frederick King, Secretary of the British Homœopathic Association, Regent House, Regent Street, W., marking their contributions " Burnett Fund." Any profits accruing from the sale of this volume will be devoted to the same purpose.

Incidentally this brochure will serve a third purpose. There is no homœopathic writer whose clinical work is more frequently quoted at the present day than is that of Dr. Burnett ; and there is none whose influence is more constantly visible in the writings of others. But whilst this is the case, there are many who have not clearly apprehended the working of Dr. Burnett's mind, and many who have failed to master the methods by which he obtained his ends. By means of the data given in the following sketch medical men will, I

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think, be able to put themselves in Dr. Burnett's standpoint and to work out for themselves problems such as those he solved. Students of Dr. Burnett's writings—and every medical man and every medical student ought to study them—will find in this volume a key to simplify their studies.

In compiling the biographical portion of this volume, advantage has been taken of the obituary notice of Dr. Burnett which appeared in the *Homœopathic World* of May, 1901; and acknowledgment is due to the publishers of that journal for permission to use the plate for the frontispiece, which gives one of the most characteristic portraits of Dr. Burnett we possess. It is taken from a photograph by Bassano.

J. H. C.

December, 1903.

PS.—It would not be right to pass without mention the recent lamented death of Dr. Burnett's greatest friend, Dr. Robert Thomas Cooper, which occurred on September 14, 1903—less than two years and five months after that of Dr. Burnett. They were a "noble pair of brothers"—geniuses both, and therapists of the highest order. "These two great practitioners held a kind of mutual therapeutic exchange, in which the ideas of each were speedily put to practical test, and corrected or rejected if they failed to stand the test, or permanently established in daily use if they gave

satisfactory response." A close intimacy of many years' duration was rudely broken when Dr. Burnett passed away. The shock of the separation well-nigh overwhelmed Dr. Cooper at the time, and he never ceased to feel it until the time came for their reunion.

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