

Industrial News and Notes

WE wish to invite the attention of our readers to a new feature in the Science News Section, which will provide information relating to technical advances secured in the domain of chemical plant, and constructional materials, industrial machinery and equipment and con-

trol devices. In this connection we wish to acknowledge with thanks the ready and courteous co-operation extended by the various research organisations and industrial firms in Great Britain and elsewhere who have willingly placed at our disposal, information relating to their research activities and literature pertaining to their technical products.

CENTENARIES

Duncumb, John (1765-1839)

JOHN DUNCUMB, an amateur British agriculturist, was born at Shere, Surrey, in 1765. Having received his early education at Guildford, he joined the Trinity College, Cambridge, and came out B.A. in 1787 and became an M.A. in 1796. For four years from the date of his graduation, he was editor of *Hereford journal*. In 1791 he entered holy orders and held different benefices from time to time but never changed his residence from Hereford.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURE

Charles, the eleventh Duke of Norfolk, who had extensive estates in Herefordshire engaged Duncumb to write a detailed history of the country on payment of two guineas a week and travelling expenses to tour the country for collecting materials. Two volumes were published till 1815, when the Duke died. The book was completed by others as late as 1882. But the journey for the collection of materials made Duncumb a familiar figure in the county and gave a distinctively agricultural turn to his interests.

He became Secretary to the Herefordshire Agricultural Society from its formation in 1797. He published two books on Agriculture: *Essay on the best means of applying pasture lands, etc., to the production of grain and of recovering them to grass* (1801) and *General view of the agriculture of the county of Herefordshire* (1805). The latter received consideration by the Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement.

Duncumb died at Hereford September 19, 1839.

Gee, Samuel Jones (1839-1911)

SAMUEL JONES GEE, a British physician, was born in London September 13, 1839. Having received his early education in a private school, he entered the University College, London, in 1857 and became M.D. in 1865. He became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1870.

HIS CAREER

He became house surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London, in 1865 and changed over to the St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1868, where he remained in various capacities till death. He taught successively morbid anatomy, pathological anatomy and medicine. He was appointed physician to George, Prince of Wales, in 1901.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

Gee became one of the authorities of his time on pediatrics. He wrote nearly fifty papers, most of which appeared in the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital reports*. The earliest papers which were on chicken-pox, scarlet fever, and tubercular meningitis, appeared in Reynold's *System of medicine* (1866-68).

Gee published two books: The first *Auscultation and percussion, together with other methods of physical examination of the chest* (1870) attained the dignity of its sixth edition in 1908. It is regarded "at once the most exact and the most literary account of its subject in English". Gee's other book, *Medical lectures and aphorisms* (1902), contained fourteen essays and 272 aphorisms and it reached its third edition in 1907.

Gee delivered three endowed lectures at the Royal College of Physicians: Galstonian lectures (1871) *On the heat of the body*; Bradshaw lectures (1892) *On the signs of acute peritoneal diseases* and Lumbeian lectures (1899) *On the causes and forms of bronchitis and the nature of pulmonary emphysema and asthma*.

HIS END

Gee was librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society from 1887 to 1899 and had a wide knowledge of books. But he was essentially a lonely man, with no hobby to bring him into familiar contact with his fellow-men. Happy in his domestic life and with his books, he preferred to remain at home when each day's work was done.

Gee died suddenly of heart failure at his daughter's house at Keswick August 3, 1911.

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