

## OBITUARY NOTICES.

**Benjamin Carrington, M.D., M.R.C.S., F.R.S.E.,** Corr. Mem. Linn. Soc., N.S.W.; Corr. Mem. R.S. Tasm. By **William Henry Pearson, Knutsford.**

(Read December 16, 1895.)

Dr Carrington was born on January 18th, 1827, at Lincoln, and received his early education in the neighbourhood; afterwards he was articled at Liverpool to Dr M'Nicoll, with whom he lived for some years.

Dr M'Nicoll was an enthusiastic naturalist and a great lover of poetry; under his influence probably was created or developed the love of natural history which the subject of our memoir was famed for. From Liverpool he proceeded to Edinburgh University. Whilst studying there he wrote a monograph of the British Grasses, and illustrated it with a set of specimens, with dissections of the minuter organs so beautifully and accurately prepared that they won for him the admiration of the leading botanists of the University. Here he made the acquaintance of Greville, Hooker, and Balfour, and no doubt his life's devotion to cryptogamic botany was influenced originally by Greville and Hooker. For the former he had the most profound admiration.

He was a thorough naturalist. There was no object in nature but excited his curiosity and attention: the more minute, the more careful. For some time he practised at Southport. Whilst there the annelids occupied his attention; and a paper on the Southport species, read before the British Association at one of its meetings, shows the intimate knowledge he had of them. He contributed papers to various magazines, and assisted specialists in this branch of natural history, and one species was, I believe, named in his honour. He had an intimate acquaintance with the British Flowering Plants,

and freely helped other botanists with his knowledge; also an accurate knowledge of the British Lichens, adding several new species to our Flora, corresponding with Leighton, Mudd, and other contemporary authorities. His knowledge of the British Mosses made him a no mean, though friendly, rival of Wilson, Spruce, and other leading authorities. He contributed several papers to the *Phytologist*, *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh*, and other scientific journals, his most important papers being on the British *Orthotricha*.

It will, however, be by his devotion to the study of the Hepaticæ that his name will especially be remembered.

He practised first at Radcliffe, near Manchester; then in succession at Lincoln, Yeadon, Southport, and Eccles.

In 1861 he visited the south of Ireland, his chief object being, as he says (after the renovation of his health), the collection and study of the Hepaticæ. The results of this visit was the appearance of his interesting "Gleanings among the Irish Cryptogams," published in the *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.* in 1863; an extensive list of lichens, mosses, and hepaticæ, with valuable notes on many species, especially of the latter order. It is illustrated by two beautiful plates, which indicate the skill he had attained in the art of delineating cryptogamic plants. Another result of this visit to Ireland was the rich contribution he made to Rabenhorst's *Bryotheca europæa*, and Gottsche and Rabenhorst's *Hepaticæ europæa*, one part of the latter being almost composed of the doctor's collecting.

In 1862 appeared Miall and Carrington's *Flora of the West Riding*, for which he compiled the list of cryptogams.

About this time he began to prepare a work on the British Hepaticæ, corresponding with all collectors and those interested in this group: De Notaris, Gottsche, and Lindberg on the Continent; Wilson, Hooker, Spruce, and others here.

In 1874 appeared the first part of what promised to be the most important work since the publication of Hooker's magnificent *British Jungermanniæ*, in 1816. Three further parts were issued in 1875 and 1876. The fourth had an ominous note appended, which stated that in consequence of the indisposition of the author the letterpress was some pages short. For some time he continued in

a very low state of health, and about the years 1880 and 1881 had to undergo several painful operations, under which his friends were afraid he would succumb. Thanks, however, to the skill of a Manchester surgeon, in whose care he was, and for whom he had the most grateful regard, he rallied, and was for several years longer able to pursue his favourite studies, but never with the same ardour; and what with difficulties with his publisher, and his enfeebled health requiring conserving to continue his professional duties, he seemed to shrink from the task of completing his beautiful and valuable work, although friends had proffered to assist him.

In 1876 he spent some time in the neighbourhood of the Trossachs, and there made what Dr Spruce describes as one of his happiest finds, *Hygrobiella myriocarpa*. This he published, with several other new species, in the *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.*, vol. xiii., 1879.

In 1878 we issued the first part of our *Hep. Brit. Exsicc.*, in the preparation of which Dr Carrington took great delight. Four fasciculi were issued, representing nearly all the British species, and between 17,000 and 18,000 specimens distributed.

In 1886 two Manchester botanical friends, who had gone to the Antipodes—Mr Thomas Whitelegge to New South Wales, Mr R. Bastow to Tasmania—sent large collections of hepaticæ, which we studied together. The results were published: those of Mr Whitelegge's collection in *Pro. Linn. Soc., N.S.W.*, illustrated by twelve plates, the cost of which was generously defrayed by the late Sir William MacLeay; those of Mr Bastow in the *Proc. Roy. Soc. of Tasmania* for 1887. These were the two last papers published by Dr Carrington.

In the same year he was elected a Corresponding Member of the Linnean Society of New South Wales and of the Royal Society of Tasmania. On the resignation of the first President, Mr John Whitehead, he was elected President of the Manchester Cryptogamic Society, which position he held till his death.

In 1874 he was elected F.R.S.E., and he was at one time F.L.S.

The following British Hepaticæ were either found or identified as British by him:—

*Cesia crenulata* (Gott.), sent to Dr Gottsche as a new species.

VOL. XXI.

2 N

*Cesia corallioides* (N.), detected under the name of *C. concinnata* in Dr Greville's herbarium.

*Cesia crassifolia* (Carr.), collected near Ben Lawers by the late Dr A. O. Black.

*Marsupella sphacelata* (Giesecke), collected by the late G. E. Hunt on Ben MacDhui and Loch Kandor, 1868.

*Marsupella Nevicencis* (Carr.), collected on Ben Nevis by Mr John Whitehead, July 1875.

*Scapania Bartlingii* (Hampe), first recorded as British, from specimens collected on rocks near the Strid, Bolton Woods, Yorkshire, 1858.

*Hygrobiella myriocarpa* (Carr.). Spruce, discovered near Ben Venue, July 1876.

*Riccia glaucescens*, Carr., discovered at Barmouth, North Wales.

*Riccia tumida*, Lindenb., collected by Mr Joshua near Monmouth, May 1877.

*Riccia sorocarpa*, Bischoff, collected by B. M. Watkins on Great Doward Hill, near Ross.

One of our rarest and most beautiful hepatics was named in his honour by the late Professor Balfour; and Herr J. B. Jack, in his monograph of the European *Radula*, named one of the rarest *Radula Carringtonii* after him. The late Professor Lindberg founded a new genus, which he named *Carringtonia*.

About twelve months before he died, his valuable collection was acquired for the Manchester Museum by the Owens College authorities, and under the care of Professor F. E. Weiss it has been arranged, and is now accessible to students.

Dr Carrington was a widely-read man, passionately fond of poetry, his favourite authors being Keats, Shelley, and Wordsworth, having no mean skill himself in the accomplishment of verse, but the "nice backwardness afraid of shame" withheld him from publishing more in this field as in scientific ones. Of an extremely retiring disposition, meek and gentle in spirit, the memory of him will be treasured by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

On the 18th of January 1893, his sixty-sixth birthday, he died at Brighton, and was buried in the Carlton Hill Cemetery in that town.

The following is a list of his most important contributions to science, taken from Professor Underwood's admirable *Index Hepaticarum*:—"Memoirs," *Torrey Bot. Club*, vol. iv. No. 1 (1893).

"Gleanings among the Irish Cryptogams," *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.*, vii. 370-372, 379-388 (1863).

"Irish Hepaticæ," *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.*, vii. 441-458; Pl. X., XI. (1863).

"On Two Hepaticæ new to Britain; *Jungermannia saxicola*, *J. Bartlingii*," *Manchester Lit. Phil. Soc. Proc.*, iv. 186-188 (1867).

"Hepaticæ in Robert Brown's *Florula discoana*," *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.*, ix. 453, 454 (1868).

List of Greenland Hepaticæ.

"Dr Gray's Arrangement of the Hepaticæ," *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.*, x. 305-309 (1870).

"On Two New British Hepaticæ," *Grevillea*, ii. 85-88; Pl. XVIII. (1873).

"British Hepaticæ, containing descriptions of the native species of *Jungermannia*, *Marchantia*, and *Anthoceros*. (Only four parts issued.) Pp. xi. 88; Pl. I.-XVI. (1874-76).

"Notes on New British Hepaticæ," *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.*, xiii. 461-470; Pl. XVII., XVIII. (1879).

CARRINGTON, B., and PEARSON, W. H.

Hepaticæ Brit. Exsiccatae. Fasc. i., Nos. 1-75 (1878); Fasc. ii., Nos. 76-150 (1879); Fasc. iii., Nos. 151-215 (1883); Fasc. iv., Nos. 216-290 (1890).

"List of Hepaticæ collected in Tasmania by Mr R. Bastow, F.L.S.," *Papers and Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania*, 1887, 49-52 (1888).

"Description of New or Rare Tasmania Hepaticæ," *Papers and Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania*, 1887, 1-12 (1888).

"List of Hepaticæ collected by Mr Thomas Whitelegge in New South Wales, 1884-5," *Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W.*, ii. 1035-60; Pl. XXII.-XXXVII. (1887).

"A New Hepaticæ," *Journ. of Bot.*, xxvii. 225, t. CCXC. (1889).