



*James very truly
D. Embleton*

D. EMBLETON, M.D., A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

(From a photograph by Mr. R. Ruddock of Newcastle.)

ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA.

I.—OBITUARY NOTICE OF DENNIS EMBLETON, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., L.S.A., a vice-president of the Society.

By F. W. DENDY.

[Read on the 28th November, 1900.]

Dr. Dennis Embleton, an honoured and respected vice-president of this society, died at his residence, 19 Claremont place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 12th November, 1900, at the great age of 90 years. He only joined the society as late as 1886, but he had, for many years before he became a member, taken a warm interest in antiquarian subjects. He had assisted our distinguished vice-president, Dr. Greenwell, in excavating barrows, and in verifying the human and animal remains which they contained, and he had contributed articles on dialect and local topography to the other publications enumerated at the end of this notice.

Dr. Embleton was born in Newcastle on the 1st October, 1810. He was a son of Thomas Embleton, a native of East Chevington, and of Anne, his wife, whose maiden name was Anne Cawood. His father died in 1820, and after his death Dennis Embleton and his elder brother, Thomas William Embleton, were brought up and educated under the guardianship of their uncle, Mr. George Hill of Kenton, colliery viewer. He sent the lads to Witton-le-Wear school, where they were educated under the rev. George Newby.

The brother, Thomas William Embleton, was trained by his uncle as a mining engineer, and left Newcastle in 1831, to become viewer of Middleton colliery, near Leeds.

Dennis Embleton, after leaving Witton school, was, on the 23rd April, 1827, bound apprentice for five years to Mr. Thomas Leighton, a surgeon in Newcastle.

Mr. Leighton was then a vice-president of the Newcastle Medical Society, and the senior surgeon of the Infirmary. He practised and died in his house in Westgate Road. This house was pulled down in 1889, and its site now forms part of the Post Office. Before his term

expired, Dennis Embleton left Newcastle, with Mr. Leighton's consent, to complete his studies in London, and entered himself at Guy's and St. Thomas's hospitals, and at Grainger and Pilcher's School of Anatomy and Physiology.

According to an article written by Dr. Embleton for the Northumberland and Durham Medical Society's transactions, upon the Newcastle Medical Society, the duties of himself and his fellow-apprentice, J. J. Garth Wilkinson, were to make the necessary tinctures and juleps, to dispense the medicines ordered in the day book by their master, and deliver them at the houses of the patients. The first things they had to learn, after the making up of medicines, were how to perform venesection and to draw teeth. His description of Newcastle, at the time of his apprenticeship, taken from the same article (p. 54), is sufficiently interesting to bear reproduction :—

'The town at that date,' he says, 'had a somewhat mediæval appearance. The Castle Garth was overcrowded with mean streets and houses; King Street and Queen Street were there, and you could almost shake hands from house to house from the upper stories across the head of the Side; the Maison Dieu of Sir Roger Thornton stood at the east end, and St. Thomas's Chapel at the west end of the Sandhill, on which was the Fish Market, in the open air; the New Gate was standing, and the town wall extended thence eastward as far as the north end and west side of Grainger Street; Eldon Square was non-existent; the town wall from Pink Tower extended to the Postern across Neville Street and the site of the railway station to beyond Paradise Row; the Forth, its tavern, and the Lime Trees Avenue, enclosed by a low brick wall, surrounded the square of grassy lawn; the open space where now is the Sheep Market, and green fields all round the Infirmary, where partridges and rabbits were found and shot at times, Anderson Place in Pilgrim Street, the old Butcher Market, the Post Office at the top of Dean Street, and the old Theatre opposite to it; all these, and much more, existed, awaiting the operation of improver and of the tooth of *edax rerum*.'

On the 18th June, 1834, Dr. Embleton was admitted as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and on the 16th April, 1835, as a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

In May, 1835, he went to Paris, and from there, in company with another medical student named William Croser, he set off on a journey, performed in great part on foot and in other part by diligence, from Paris to Strasburg, then through Baden to Switzerland,

and afterwards by the Simplon Pass to Milan, Genoa, Rome, Pisa, Florence, Venice, and Trieste. From Trieste they went to Vienna, and returned thence, through the Tyrol and by way of Chur, again to Paris.

The journey lasted nearly two years, and besides seeing all the places of ordinary interest on their route, the two students visited numerous medical schools and hospitals, especially at Strasburg, Milan, Pavia, Pisa, and Vienna. At Pisa, where they remained some time, they petitioned the authorities of the Imperial and Royal University to be admitted to examination for the doctorate of medicine. The request was granted, and on the 14th September, 1836, Dr. Embleton and his companion passed the ordeal, and were granted their diplomas. The event was evidently one of considerable interest in the town, for, after they had received their degrees, a band of music accompanied them back to their hotel, and a local poet recited a short laudatory poem of which he gave them an illuminated copy.

In 1836-37, Dr. Embleton attended medical courses in Paris in connexion with hospitals there, and in the latter year he returned to practise in his native town. In 1838 he was appointed lecturer on anatomy and physiology to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne School of Medicine; in 1852, reader in medicine at the Durham University; in 1853 that university admitted him to his M.D. degree by diploma, and in 1857 he became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1870 the School of Medicine became closer connected with Durham University, and he was appointed the first professor of medicine and of the practice of physic. He was also, from 1858 to 1872, the representative of Durham University on the General Medical Council. He held the position of physician, and afterwards that of consulting physician, to the Infirmary and of physician to the Dispensary.

In 1882 he occupied the presidential chair of the section of Sanitary Science and Preventive Medicine during the meeting of the Sanitary Science Congress in Newcastle.

Dr. Embleton took a keen interest in the erection of the new museum at Barras Bridge, and presented many valuable specimens of natural history to its shelves. He took an active part in the British

Association meetings held in Newcastle in 1863 and 1889. He was from 1828 a member, and from 1878 to his death a vice-president of the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society. He joined our society, as has been said before, in 1886, and was elected a vice-president in 1895.

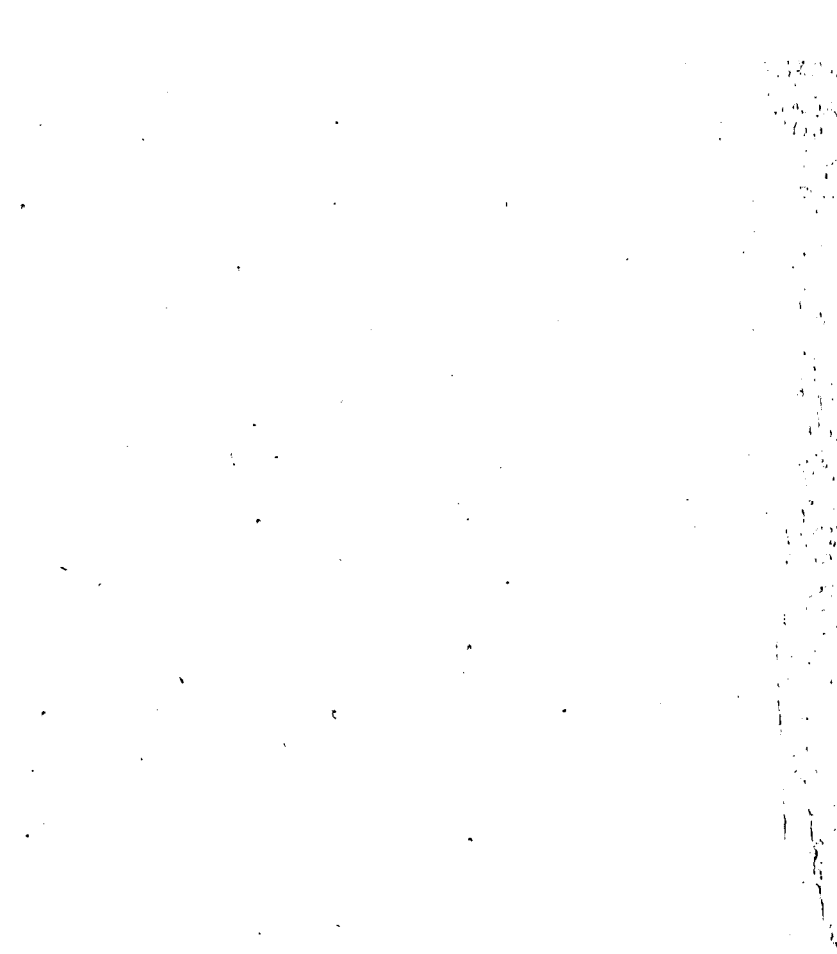
He contributed to medical literature a large number of articles relating to his profession, and for the *Magazine of Natural History* and the *Natural History Transactions of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, he wrote many important papers on natural history and biographical notices of several distinguished local naturalists, including memoirs of the lives of his life-long friends, Albany and John Hancock. He gave two lectures on Madeira (which he visited in the winter of 1880-81) to the members of the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society, and he was in later life a frequent contributor to the *Archaeologia Aeliama* and the *Proceedings* of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries. A list of some of his published writings is appended to this notice. The list is voluminous, but it has been found difficult either to make it complete or to indicate in every case where the contribution can be found. It may be useful, however, to add that many of the papers bound together in one volume are to be found in the library of the Literary and Philosophical Society, under the title of Papers by Dr. Embleton, Miscellaneous Tracts, No. 382.

He was married in 1847, at Whickham, to Elizabeth Turner, who died in 1869. He had three children. His only son, Dr. Dennis Cawood Embleton of Bournemouth, predeceased him. At his death, Dr. Embleton left two daughters, one of whom, the elder, is married. A grandson, Dennis Embleton, is an undergraduate studying medicine at Christ's College, Cambridge.

The members of this society who could speak of Dr. Embleton from intimate personal knowledge left this world before him. We, who belong to a later generation, can only look back to this long extent of useful life, stretching through very nearly the whole of the nineteenth century, with respect and admiration for so much work so well done.

See W. Bell Scott's *Autobiography* Vol 1 - p 221.

1847, Octr. 13th. Married at St. Mary's
Church, Whickham, DENNIS EMBLETON,
of full age bachelor, Member of
the Roy. Coll. of Surgeons, M.D.,
Residing in the parish of St.
Andrew's, Newcastle, son of THOMAS
EMBLETON, Innkeeper, to ELIZABETH
TURNER, of full age, spinster, of
Whickham, daughter of WILLIAM TUR-
NER, Coalfitter; Henry B. Carr,
Rector, performed the marriage
ceremony, and among the six wit-
nesses the name of Albany Hancock
appears.



Archaeologia Aeliana.

- 1885.—Unde derivatur Corstopitum? Vol. xi. p. 137.
 1887.—On certain Peculiarities of the Dialect in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northumberland. Vol. xiii. p. 72.
 1892.—The Barber Surgeons and Wax and Tallow Chandlers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with extracts from their records. Vol. xv. p. 228.
 1894.—The 'Quigs burying Plas in Sidgatt,' Newcastle, the Swirlé and the Lort Burn. Vol. xvii. p. 84.
 1896.—Ruins of Buildings once existing on the Quayside, Newcastle. Vol. xviii. p. 258.

Reports of the Newcastle and Gateshead Medical Society.

- On tenderness and pain of the pneumo-gastric nerves. Three parts; 1855-1874.
 Two cases of insufficiency of abdominal wall. Plate. 1856.
 On mesenteric disease ending in fatal hemorrhage. 1857.
 A case of extroversion of bladder, etc. 1857.
 A case of diphtheria—operation—death. 1858.
 A case of cancer of stomach—sarcina ventr. 1858.
 Three cases of 'dropped hands' from lead. 1859.
 Case of hydrothorax—paracentesis—recovery. 1860.
 A case of cancer of the stomach. 1861.
 A case of schirrhous of oesophagus. 1861.
 A case of stricture of oesophagus. 1861.
 Two cases of hydro-pneumo—thorax. 1861.
 Two cases of diseased kidney. 1862.
 Annual report of Fever Hospital for 1857-58.
 ditto. ditto. for 1861-62.
 A case of cyanosis. 1862.
 A case of diseased spleen. 1863.
 On the use of chlorate of potass. 1863.
 An account of a *post mortem* examination of an inveterate smoker of tobacco, circa 1670. Translated from the Latin of Kerkringius. 1864.
 Report on a Turin monstrosity for Dr. Ellis. 1864.
 Report (annual) of Fever Hospital. 1864-65.
 On the cattle plague or typhus in Newcastle. 1865.
 A case of rupture of median line of abdomen in a male. 1867.
 A case of two fractured and united femora of an Ancient Briton. 1867.
 A case of occlusion of ductus comm. choledocus and rupture of gall bladder. 1867.

- Case of aortic aneurism, pressing on the vena cava descendens and on the vena azygos. 1868.
- Case of fractured skull with re-union in an Ancient Briton. 1868.
- A case of aneurism of abdominal aorta. 1869.
- A case of epilepsy—paralysis—recovery. 1870.
- A case of salivary calculus. 1870.
- Notes of a case of death from hydrate of chloral. 1870.
- A case of hemiplegia and partial aphasia. 1871.
- Sequel of a case of epilepsy. 1871.
- A case of locomotor ataxy. 1872.
- A case of hypertrophied heart. 1873.
- Two cases of diabetes mellitus. 1873.
- Cases of hydrophobia with remarks, etc. 1873.
- Magnetic iron ore in tea instead of iron filings. 1874.
- Case of tumour (intracranial) at the base pressing on pons varolii, medulla oblongata and cerebellum. 1875.
- What is a generation of men? 1875.
- Microscopical demonstration of Favus (*Achorion Schönleini*). 1875.
- A case of recto-vesical fistula in the male. 1877.
- A case of psoriasis generalis. 1877.
- A case of pyloric obstruction, etc. 1877.
- A case of acute pleuritis—hydrothorax—paracentesis—injection—recovery. 1877.
- A case of aneurism of the aorta. 1880. Dr. R. Elliot's.
- Notice of the life of T. M. Greenhow, M.D., with list of his publications. 1881.
- Vivisection and the Anti-Vivisection Acts. 1881.
- Sea-sickness. 1883.
- Address on the opening of the Durham College of Medicine. 1890.
- The Newcastle Medical Society One Hundred Years ago, with biographical notices of the members, etc. 1891.

Annual and Magazine of Natural History.

- On the Anatomy of Eolis, Nudibranchiate Mollusk. Part 1, by Albany Hancock and D. Embleton. Five plates. 1845.
- On the Anatomy of Eolis. Part 2. Two plates. 1848.
- do. do. Part 3. do. 1849.
- do. do. Part 4. do. 1849.
- An Osteological Study. By D. E. and G. B. Richardson. 1846. Summary of, in *Archaeological Journal*.
- On the Anatomy of Scyllaea, Nudibranchiate Mollusk. Report British Association. 1847. Albany Hancock and D. Embleton.

Transactions of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club.

- Vol. I. p. 288.—Account of a Ribbon Fish (*Gymnetrus*). Two Plates. By A. H. and D. E. July, 1849.
- Vol. II. p. 1.—Address to the members of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club on March 22, 1851.
- Vol. II. p. 103.—On the two Species of Rat in England. Two plates. 1850.
- Vol. II. p. 110.—On the short Sunfish (*Orthogoriscus Mola*). One plate. 1850.
- Vol. II. p. 119.—Summary of Observations on the Anatomy of *Doris*, a Nudibranchiate Mollusk. By Albany Hancock and D. Embleton. 1852.
- Vol. IV. p. 50.—Memorandum of the Occurrence of the Skeleton of the Bottle-nose whale (*Hyperoodon Butzkoff, Lacépède*), and of the Skull of the Grampus (*Delphinus Orca, Cuvier*), in the Bed of the Tyne. 1858.
- Vol. V. p. 196.—On the Skull and other Bones of *Loxomma Allmanni*. By D. E. and T. Atthey. 1874.
- Vol. VI. p. 34.—Notes on a Tumulus at Grundstone Law, Northumberland. By the Rev. W. Greenwell and D. Embleton.

Natural History Transactions of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

- Vol. I. p. 143—On an Ancient British burial at Ilderton, with Notes on the Skull. By the Rev. W. Greenwell and D. Embleton.
- Vol. I. p. 324.—Notice of the Life of the late Joshua Alder, Esq.
- Vol. V. p. 118.—Memoir of the Life of Albany Hancock, F.L.S., etc.
- Vol. V. p. 146.—On the Vendace.
- Vol. VII.—Presidential Address on May 7, 1879.
- Vol. VII. p. 43.—A Paper on Eggs.
- Vol. VII. p. 223.—Memoir of the Life of Mr. W. C. Hewitson, F.L.S.
- Vol. VIII.—Note on the Birds seen at Nest House, Felling Shore, in May and June, 1884; Note on the occurrence of Shrimps in the Tyne; and Note on the capture of Tunnies and of a fine specimen of the 'Bergylt' off the Tyne. June, 1884.
- Vol. VIII.—The Tyne, The Lort Burn, and The Skerne.
- Vol. VIII.—On the Spinal Column of *Loxomma Allmanni*.
- Vol. IX.—A Catalogue of Place-names in Teesdale.
- Vol. X.—Description of Stump-Cross Cavern [quoted in president's address, pp. 190-1.]
- Vol. XI.—Memoir of the Life of John Hancock. 1891.
- Vol. XI. p. 255.—On the Egg: lecture with introduction. 1893.

Other Publications.

- 1847.—On the anatomy of Scylloea. *British Association Reports, 1847.*
Part ii, p. 77.
- 1858.—Notes on whale caught at Newbiggin-on-Sea. [This is listed as being in the *Nat. Hist. Trans.*, vol. vi., but cannot be found in that publication.]
- 1859.—The microscope and its uses: a newspaper report.
- 1864.—Notes on anatomy of Chimpanzee. *Nat. Hist. Review.*
- 1869.—Anniversary address of President, Northern Branch of the British Medical Association at Newcastle, 1869.
- 1870.—Introductory address, section of medicine, annual meeting British Medical Association, Newcastle, 1870.
- 1872.—Anomalies of arrangement, muscular, arterial, nervous. *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, vol. vi. p. 216, 1872.
- 1870.—On the Shoulder Tip Pain, and other Sympathetic Pains in Diseases of the Pancreas and Spleen, and on the symmetry of these organs.
Letter from physicians to governors of Fever Hospital.
- 1877.—Case of univentricular or tricoelian heart; with Dr. Rob. Elliot.
- 1882.—Address delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Northern Branch of the British Medical Association in Newcastle, July 13th, 1882.
- 1882.—On the treatment of sea-sickness. *Journal of Medicine*, No. 32, 1882.
- 1882-3.—Address of President to section of sanitary science and preventive medicine. *Trans. Sanitary Institute of Great Britain*, 1882-83.
- 1889.—The 'Three Indian Kings,' on the Quayside, Newcastle. A paper read at the inaugural dinner at the Quayside Restaurant, Limited, December 17th, 1888.
- 1890.—History of the Medical School, from 1832 to 1872.
- 1890.—Address at the Opening of the Durham College of Medicine, on the 1st day of October, 1890.
- 1890.—Newcastle Medical Society a hundred years ago.
- 1890.—Biographical notices on members of the Philosophical and Medical Society one hundred years ago.
- 1890, Oct.—The Ahd Pitman's Po'try tiv ees Marrah.
Local Dialect Dialogues.
- 1891.—Barber-surgeons and chandlers of Newcastle. *Journal office* (different from that in the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. xv. p. 228).
- 1880-81.—A Visit to Madeira in the Winter of 1880-81. Two lectures delivered before the members of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle.