

## Medical Matters.

### SIR ANDREW CLARK.



It is with the deepest sorrow that we announce the death of this distinguished physician, which took place on Monday afternoon at his residence in Cavendish square. The gravity of his illness was recognised at once by his friends, and after a brief rally from the first attack of unconsciousness, the brain lesion steadily became more pronounced. His premature decease is but another of the many examples of the result of over-work. For the last quarter of a century, Sir ANDREW CLARK has been fighting against Time in the struggle to accomplish the multiplicity of duties which devolved upon him. Always ready to help in every good work; proud of his profession, and eager to advance its interests to the utmost of his ability; keenly interested in his private patients and neglecting no detail which might conduce to their advantage; he undertook work from which many much less busy men would have excused themselves. He consented, year after year, to fill the most onerous and important office of President of the Royal College of Physicians of London—the titular headship of the medical profession in the British Empire—in addition to the Presidency of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical, and of other learned Societies. It is an interesting fact that he is the thirteenth President of the Royal College who has filled that post during this century, and the first President who has died during his term of office. Sir ANDREW CLARK will, we believe, be better remembered hereafter for his many virtues as a man, than for his scientific researches. He has made a deep mark on the hearts of his contemporaries, for all who knew him were compelled to admire and to love him. In the ordinary acceptation of the word, he has been a most successful man. What his hand found to do, he did it with his might; so he did more than attain success—he deserved it. He has not enriched medical science with many new or great discoveries, but his death will be felt as a personal loss by thousands of medical men and of the general public. It is fitting that the Dean of Westminster should have been approached on the subject of a commemorative service in Westminster Abbey. Mr. Gladstone has signed the requisition, and the family acquiescing, the Dean has given his consent. The first part of the funeral service will be held in the Abbey at twelve o'clock on Saturday, after which the remains will be conveyed to Essendon Church, near Hatfield, where the concluding portion of the service will be held and the body interred.

### THE WEST HAM HOSPITAL.

MUCH annoyance has been caused, we are informed, amongst the many friends and supporters of this excellent Institution, by the mis-statements which have recently been made in a certain journal concerning it. Several charges of mis-management were, some few weeks ago, brought against the Small-pox Hospital at Plaistow, and the Corporation of West Ham, under whose control that Hospital is held, it was alleged, did not inquire sufficiently into the truth of these allegations. Whether this were so or not, need not be here discussed, because we merely desire to call public attention to, and therefore to correct, the mistake made by a weekly contemporary, which founded on the above charges an utterly unwarrantable attack upon the West Ham Hospital for Accidents, evidently believing, in its ignorance, that the two Institutions were identical. We do not believe that the statements of our contemporary will do the slightest harm to the West Ham Hospital, because those who know, and those who support, that excellently managed Institution, are not likely to be influenced by anything emanating from such a source. But we sympathise with the authorities in the natural annoyance which they feel at such harmful ignorance being exhibited at their expense.

### THE DIET OF INFANTS.

THE difficulties under which doctors labour in arriving at the truth concerning their patients, especially in rural districts, is well illustrated by the following story, which, whether it has been improved upon or not, in the telling, is undoubtedly founded upon fact. The doctor had examined a baby suffering from malnutrition, and then the following dialogue took place:—Doctor: "What food do you give it?" Mother: "Nawthin'." Doctor: "But it must have some food to live upon. Do you mean to say that you give it nothing?" Mother: "No; it ain't 'ad nawthin'." Doctor: "What! nothing at all?" Mother: "No; nawthin'." Doctor: "Don't you give it any milk?" Mother: "Oh yes; I gives it some milk!" Doctor: "Then why do you say it has nothing?" Mother: "I didn't know what you meant." Doctor: "Do you give it anything besides milk?" Mother: "No; nawthin'." Doctor: "No bread?" Mother: "Yes; I gives it sopped bread." Doctor: "Anything else at all?" Mother: "No; nawthin' else." Doctor: "I suppose when you have your meals it gets something off the table?" Mother: "Oh yes; it picks a bit of meat and vegetables and such like when we gets our dinner."

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