

Obituary 19 October

THE LATE MR. ALFRED JUKES.—In our obituary last week, we had the melancholy duty of announcing the decease of Alfred Jukes, Esq., for many years house surgeon of the General Hospital. Mr. Jukes was a son of the late John Jukes, Esq., of Bordesley House, near this town, and commenced his professional education as a pupil of Mr. Joseph Ledsam, formerly a surgeon in Birmingham. After having attended the practice of the General Hospital, and also of the Westminster Hospital, London, he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. On the 15th of June, 1813, he was elected house surgeon to the Birmingham General Hospital, which appointment he continued to hold until September, 1820, when he tendered his resignation, to the great regret of the governors of the institution, who acknowledged by a special resolution the great advantages the charity had derived from his professional services, and agreed to present him with a piece of plate as a token of their full approbation of his conduct. In the following year Mr. Jukes became a candidate for the office of surgeon to the institution, vacant by the decease of Mr. F. Dickinson. In this application he was unsuccessful. A second vacancy having occurred in March, 1823, by the decease of Mr. Freer, Mr. Jukes was unanimously appointed that gentleman's successor. He retained his surgery until March, 1843, a period of twenty years, when impaired health, and the onerous duties of private practice, compelled him to retire from it. The loss of his services was universally felt and expressed by his colleagues, and by all who regarded the interests of the Hospital. He was warmly attached to that institution, and contributed in an eminent degree to maintain its dignity and usefulness.—In private life Mr. Jukes enjoyed the affectionate friendship of all who knew him; he was essentially a kind-hearted and honest man. As surgeon he deservedly enjoyed a high rank in the estimation of his professional brethren, and few men have possessed in a larger or more merited degree the confidence of their patients. The melancholy bereavement which his family have sustained, will in some measure be consoled by the fact that this worthy man has descended to his grave universally regretted. In a letter of condolence lately received by Mr. Juke's brother, from an eminent physician at Bath, and once his colleague at our Hospital, the following eulogy is expressed;—"I will not refrain from asking you to accept the heartfelt assurance of my sincere sympathy on the melancholy occasion. I truly believe a more upright, excellent, and humane man, or a sounder master in surgery, could not be found, and needed not to be sought. His amiable gifts in private and social intercourse were conspicuous to all who mingled with him in friendship and good neighbourhood. In his domestic circle, his benign virtues were calculated to shine with the brightest lustre. I think upon him with regret, as a good man and an accomplished surgeon, and shall hold his memory in honour and respect."

Transcribed by Keith Winters from a partially-dated newspaper clipping in the possession of Ian Hillman