

Section on Historical Pharmacy

Papers Presented at the Fifty-Ninth Convention

RECOLLECTIONS OF MICHAEL CARTEIGHE.

JOSEPH P. REMINGTON.

After the last page of the life-book of a man is closed, it is profitable for his contemporaries to review the chief facts of his life, and to place on record a just and fair estimate of his services to the world. The subject of this sketch was a noted man with a marked personality, and would never be overlooked in any assembly.

It was the writer's privilege to know Michael Carteighe. The few occasions when it was possible to meet him personally must not be considered as representing the opportunities of judging of his character, temperament or achievements. Regarding his personality, the first impression was that of an intense, brainy, successful man, who made it his business in life to first settle upon a course of action, and then to go swiftly forward, employing every agency which he thought necessary to win success. Resourcefulness was "writ large" among his attainments.

In studying his life, one is amazed at the methods he employed to accomplish his purposes. Great Britain has cause for thankfulness that Michael Carteighe's heart and soul were pure and undefiled. If it had been otherwise, Carteighe's power for harm would have been tremendous. He overcame opposition by the sheer power of his personality and intellect, and the combination of qualities which he swiftly marshalled to his aid. Those who worked with him could scarcely tell in advance what plan of action he would use, and they never could tell when he would change his method of attack or defense. He reminded the writer of a star fullback in a football match. Given the signal for the run, with the precious pigskin grasped firmly to his breast, he is off like a shot, picking his field, dodging to the right or the left, using the straight arm to ward off the tackling opponent, infallibly choosing his openings, seeming to know by intuition when to pause and when to rush, taking advantage of every misplay of the enemy, and with a vitality outlasting his opponents, there is no halting until the goal posts are reached and the ball planted squarely between.

This first impression was always present in the mind of the writer, but it is manifest that those who knew the early life of Michael Carteighe must have seen him playing a patient waiting role. It must have been a rare treat to see Carteighe in action, in repose, in study, on the mountain-top in Alpine costume, at the Chemists' Ball, in fierce debate at the Society's rooms, at a committee meeting laying out the plan of action, interviewing a prime minister, cajoling a reluctant member, confusing a pedant, scoring a doubter, yielding a non-essential point to his weaker opponent when he knew that he had gained the main contention, or

sometimes deliberately provoking opposition to strengthen the power of his victory which he saw was coming.

Michael had the heart of a lion; and withal it was as tender as a woman's. He was sympathetic in times of distress, gentle when consoling a troubled friend. He had a great gift of intuition, and knew how to push aside trivial matters and reach the core of the situation quickly. Such a man was a born leader among men, even as a youth doing unthinkable things, such as criticising the management of a distinguished Society on the public occasion of his receiving a notable prize for his attainments. Such an act would undoubtedly provoke criticism for its audacity, but it probably represented one of the remarkable methods which Carteighe took to startle people out of ruts, trusting that the manner and merits of his criticism would produce rapid results.

Carteighe never seemed to realize that inherited qualities, environment and dual possession of a brilliant mind and magnificent physique made him what he was; and at times he was intolerant and rode rough shod over his fellows; but it must not be supposed that he was not informed when he made mistakes, and he knew well how to retrieve a blunder. If it were necessary to carry an important point he would not hesitate to affront a contemporary if he thought he could thus bring success to his plans; doubtless there were occasions when he provoked a fight unwisely, due probably to lack of restraint and an overfulness in his heart, arteries, veins and capillaries of rich Irish blood. In considering Michael Carteighe's personality one must be impressed with the fact that he was an Irish Englishman, rather than an English Irishman.

Born in Lancashire, England, his ancestry were from County Cork, Ireland. At an early age he went to London to attend a school at Clapham. He was apprenticed to Mr. C. J. Radermacher, a London chemist, who is still living. He became a demonstrator in Chemistry under Professor Williamson, University College, London. He entered the firm of Dinneford & Company in 1863, in which his brother, John Carteighe, was a partner. In the previous year, Michael Carteighe had entered as a student in the School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, with a record unsurpassed for brilliancy of attainment. In 1864 he was elected Auditor of the Pharmaceutical Society, a connection which lasted forty-six years. In 1866 he was elected a member of the Council and a member of the examiners of the British Pharmaceutical Society. He acted as local Secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1874. In 1880-1882 he became Honorary Secretary of the Conference, and its President in 1883. In 1881 he was English Secretary of the Fifth International Pharmaceutical Congress. In 1882 he was elected President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and continued in this office fourteen years.

During this time he was indefatigable in his efforts to remedy the evils which beset the progress of pharmacy; but, like most reformers, he was ahead of his time. In some of his most persistent and heroic efforts he was not always supported by the rank and file. It was ceaseless and persistent work which led to the publication of the British Pharmaceutical Journal Formulary and the Pharmaceutical Codex, in 1907.

Although he had a strongly developed taste for chemical research, and had delivered a number of lectures upon physics, this gifted man turned aside and

chose for his life-work the betterment of pharmacy. An appreciative writer (see *Am. Jour. Phar.*, August, 1910) sums up most admirably Michael's career:

"It was his addresses on pharmaceutical politics by which the greater number of pharmacists will remember him. Some of his most brilliant efforts were made extemporaneously on occasions when no reporters were present to place his utterances on record. In speech he was a model of lucidity; he not only knew his subject thoroughly, but had the gift of presenting essential facts in such a way that his hearers not only understood what he intended, but carried away with them what he intended they should remember. His speeches expounded the policy which he consistently and persistently followed. He ever kept in view the main fact that parliamentary and public recognition can never be accorded to the commercial side of the business of the chemist and druggist, and that protection of the professional side must be won by the exhibition of special fitness in the individuals who claim to work for the public safety. Hence the promotion of sounder education and technical training, the institution of research work, and the perfection of machinery of examination, which must be forever identified with Mr. Carteighe's name. And hence, too, the metamorphosis in the school and its equipment, the foundation of the Research Laboratory, the development of the Journal, the Museum, and the Library, which earned for him the sobriquet of the 'spend-thrift president.' But who shall say that the money was squandered? Surely not his successors, who have been enabled to harvest in many of the fields he has ploughed!"

The American Pharmaceutical Association was indebted to Michael Carteighe, and members who were present in Chicago at the World's Fair meeting, in 1893, will never forget him. He was there in several capacities. At that time he was President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, our sister organization. He was associated with Sir Richard Webster, now Lord Chief Justice of England, and J. Fletcher Moulton, now Lord Justice, and other distinguished personages. He was given an enthusiastic greeting both in the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Seventh International Pharmaceutical Congress, and he was the bearer of the Hanbury gold medal to our beloved Professor Maisch.

The closing years of his life were marked by many pathetic incidents. He severed his long connection with business in 1907. In 1908, he became totally blind, but he courageously attended to his duties, and never lost his cheerfulness, and displayed at times, amazing energy and intellectual grasp. He was the British lion of Pharmacy, fighting against tremendous odds. He had lost his charming helpmate and loving companion in 1905; the sight of his colleagues and friends was denied him, and he could only recognize them by the inflection of their voices. Though he had scaled Alpine heights, he had now to be led by the hand of a little child. Still that great heart continued to pulse and vibrate with the one thought which dominated his life—service to his fellow man.

The brief introduction which Americans had in 1893, furnished a most transitory glimpse of Michael Carteighe; but it is meet and right that some appreciation of this great man's services should be placed on the official records of the American Pharmaceutical Association. And his life should stimulate us who remain, to inspire our young men, who are coming forward, to devote themselves to such a life in the great cause of unselfish service in bettering the condition of our fellow-craftsmen, and raising the standard of Pharmacy throughout the world.

"A man whose soul is pure and strong, whose sword is bright and keen,
Who knows the splendour of the fight and what its issues mean;
Who never takes one step aside or halts, though hope be dim,
But cleaves a pathway through the strife, and bids men follow him."