Obituary.

PROF. J. G. ADAMI, C.B.E., F.R.S.

GEORGE ADAMI was a great pathologist, though not a 'laboratory man' in later years. A scholar and Darwin prizeman of Christ's College, Cambridge, he took a first class in the Natural Science Tripos, then studied in Paris with Pasteur and Roux, in Breslau with Heidenhain, and in Cambridge with Roy and Michael Foster. Afterwards he became John Lucas Walker student, and at the early age of thirty, professor of pathology and bacteriology at McGill University, Montreal. Through his inspiration, Sir Humphry Rolleston has written: "a continuous stream of papers" issued "from his laboratory dealing with all branches of pathology and its application to other sciences." He was awarded the F.R.S. in 1905 and the Fothergillian gold medal of the Medical Society of London in 1914. He was an ex-president of the Association of American Physicians, a fellow of both Jesus and Christ's Colleges, and held many honorary degrees. During the War, Adami became assistant director of Medical Services in the Canadian Army, for which he received the C.B.E. A member of the War Office Committee on the Medical History of the War, he published in 1918 vol. 1 of the "War Story of the Canadian Medical Corps." He was chairman of the Committee on Bacteriological Procedures, Medical Research Committee, and was largely responsible for the standardisation of Wassermann technique in the laboratories of Great Britain.

Adami's greatest contribution to science was the "Principles of Pathology." The first volume on general pathology, published in 1908, marked an epoch. It was, as stated in the preface, "not a mere record and description of phenomena, but an attempt to analyse those phenomena in an ordinary manner." It contained his exposition of inflammation and his original and helpful classification of neoplasms upon an embryological basis. Four years later he published with his friend Dr. John McCrae, of McGill University, his popular text-book of pathology. Other contributions to science included "The Physiology and Pathology of the Mammalian Heart" with Roy (*Phil. Trans.*), Pictou cattle disease, and a survey of the 1918 influenza epidemic in the British Army. In his Croonian lectures on adaptation and disease, delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in 1917, Adami argued against the doctrine that acquired characters are not transmitted. He was greatly interested in the problem of malignancy, and in the *Medical Journal and Record*, New York, August 18, 1926, controverted the view "that one particular order of microbe is concerned in the production of all malignant tumours;" he believed that the colloidal lead treatment was an "advance."

Adami accepted in 1919 the arduous post of vice-chancellor of the University of Liverpool. By his broad and practical outlook on life, his buoyant energy, his genial friendship, and his high ideals, he ennobled the University and the City of Liverpool and brought the two into closer and more intimate relationship. He faced his gradually failing health with unflinching courage, carrying out his duties to within a few weeks of his death.

ERNEST GLYNN.

THE news of Vice-Chancellor Adami's death came as a great shock to his personal friends, and no man had more: for so great was his passion for pleasant intercourse, and his enjoyment of human fellowship, that he sought and made firm friendships where other men would have only multiplied acquaintances. To meet him was a pleasure which he always actively developed, striking sparks from stones, and even finding entertainment in dullards. Doubtless it was partly this side of his character which found satisfaction in the very onerous post of vice-chancellor in the midst of this busily employed provincial city: a post which he filled with distinction, and with a grace which few could imitate. Not very different was that other interest which could leave no medical problem untouched, and carried him, enthusiastically always, through the wide-spread fields of knowledge in the subject of which he was a master, ever curious to meet new developments and always with the firm hand which grasped what others were satisfied with merely touching.

Gifted with this spirit of adventurous and penetrating curiosity, a man of incessant industry, and with a natural facility of expression and delight in exposition, his scientific papers and lectures have since his earliest days excited marked admiration: and to many it was a matter for regret that this more widely-known side of his activities was submerged in the daily routine of an administrative post. However, in Liverpool, an occasional lecture to a local society frequently disclosed the talents which his administrative duties otherwise concealed: and even to those to whom his main subject was a closed book, he was a shining example of the light which the University represented in the lives of the younger generation to which he patiently struggled to make it more and more accessible.

Resident long in Canada, familiar with methods of co-operation better known there than in our more conservative home-surroundings, Adami was sincerely an advocate of modes of procedure, methods and manners of organisation, which are not quite our own: and this advocacy was not without some discovery that habits and tastes were not readily remodelled. Such surprises must come to every man of action who ventures into new fields, and there the weaker spirit fails. Adami's spirit never flinched. Through every temporary conflict his buoyancy survived, and the geniality of his character helped him ably to overcome any lingering remnant of hostility.

Nor is this perhaps without some application to the endeavours in medical progress with which Adami has been most closely associated in the last few years of his life. Cancer, as he phrased it, is a *killer*, therefore it must be fought, and that by *team-work*. Absolute sincerity, tremendous enthusiasm, great breadth of knowledge and keenness of insight, and yet opposition, as natural as the clouds, which he somehow failed to understand.

Splendid gifts, sturdily continued efforts, great endeavours, all carried in a nature that was poised and balanced as by an internal gyrostat of goodwill and honourable intention; none of these qualities have