

may just as well be supposed capable of moving sideways also.

It may be noted that the formation of the moon by the segregation of a portion of the earth's crust bears a close analogy to the formation of planets from the sun by near approach of another star, as now held by many recent writers. If the aggregation to a spherical form is possible in the case just mentioned, it should be equally possible in the case of a crustal mass stripped off by tidal resonance; it is even conceivable that the disruption of the earth may have been caused by a similar cosmical disturbance due to the approach of some other body, but as to this there appears to be no evidence, and the tidal resonance theory offers the simplest explanation.

The following short bibliography includes a few of the more important recent publications bearing on this subject:

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Obituary.

SIR RICKMAN JOHN GODLEE, BART.

BY the sudden death of Sir Rickman Godlee on April 20, science loses a singularly open-minded man of varied gifts and wide interests, who was intimately associated with the great revolution in surgery accomplished by his famous uncle, Lord Lister. In fact, Godlee is now most widely known as the author of Lister's biography, which is not only a worthy record of one of the greatest incidents in the history of science, but also a graphic picture of the simple, homely society in which the sterling characters of Lister and of Godlee himself were moulded. During his long career Sir Rickman played many parts, as senior demonstrator of anatomy and afterwards professor of clinical surgery at University College, London, and honorary surgeon at University College Hospital, as president of the Royal College of Surgeons, as surgeon to the household of Queen Victoria, and surgeon-in-ordinary to King Edward VII. and King George V.

As an anatomist Godlee displayed exceptional skill in dissection, and in addition he was a superb draughtsman. These gifts were displayed not only in his contributions to "Quain's Elements of Anatomy," but also in his own "Atlas of Human Anatomy" (1880). But perhaps his chief contribution to anatomy was his investigation of cranio-cerebral topography, which his pioneer work in cerebral surgery impelled him to undertake.

At the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis (then in Portland Terrace, overlooking Regent's Park) Godlee performed the hitherto unprecedented operation (in England) of removing a tumour from the brain, after its position had been determined on the evidence provided by Sir David Ferrier's experiments on animals. This milestone in the history of surgery was made more conspicuous still when particular attention was directed to it in the *Times* of December 16, 1884, for the purpose of rebutting Ruskin's attack on vivisection.

Godlee's interest in University College and its anatomy department was maintained with unabated vigour until the end. His loss will be particularly felt this year, not merely for personal reasons, but also because his intimate knowledge of the College

and of University College Hospital and his rare literary gifts were being devoted to the preparation of the history to celebrate the centenary next year.

In spite of his seventy-six years, Sir Rickman had retained his mental and physical vigour unimpaired. After his retirement from surgical practice in 1920 he was free (at his beautiful home at Whitchurch, near Pangbourne) to devote himself with new zeal to those interests in Nature—geological, botanical, and zoological—concerning which his knowledge was amazingly wide and exact. Nor did he allow these interests to affect his devotion to art. An exceptionally gifted draughtsman himself, he was keenly interested in etchings and engravings, of which he had a characteristically critical but appreciative knowledge.

Frankly outspoken and always open-minded, Sir Rickman Godlee's opinions and advice were much valued by his friends.

SIR D. GOLDSMID-STERN-SALOMONS.

SIR D. GOLDSMID-STERN-SALOMONS, better known perhaps by his earlier name of Sir David Salomons, died at his residence at Broomhill, Tunbridge Wells, on April 19, at the age of seventy-three. He was educated at University College, London, and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he graduated in the Natural Science Tripos of 1873. His uncle was Sir David Salomons, who made a long fight for admission to the House of Commons and was the first of the Jewish faith to sit there. His uncle warmly encouraged Sir David's interest in physics and engineering. He equipped a physical laboratory for him, and a few years later a workshop and a small electric generating station were added to it. Sir David was undoubtedly one of the earliest pioneers of electric lighting for use indoors. He claimed that so far back as 1874 he used incandescent lamps for house lighting. He was a most enthusiastic inventor, making for himself all the electric switches and other devices which he required. He was one of the first to realise the difficulties in the way of heating and sparking that had to be overcome. No one outside the electrical profession realises the immense amount of research and ingenuity that has been