ART. XVII.—Sir Henry Rosborough Swanzy, M.D.,
Honoris Causâ, Univ. Dubl.; D.Sc., Honoris Causâ,
Sheffield; Fellow and Past-President, Royal College of
Surgeons in Ireland. By Charles E. Fitzgerald,
M.D., M.Ch. Univ. Dubl.; President, Royal College of
Physicians of Ireland.

As one who was possibly brought into closer relations
with the late Sir Henry R. Swanzy than any other
member of the medical profession in Dublin during the
early part of his career, I cannot refrain from recording
my sense of the great loss we have all experienced by his
sudden death.

He and I were fellow students, but he took the degree
of M.B. at the University of Dublin some three years
before I did, and the following year he became a
Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,
after which he went to Germany, where he acted as sur-
geon in the Prussian Army campaign of 1866. After that
he joined the Ophthalmic Clinique of the late Prof. von
Graefe, and eventually was appointed one of the assistants
at his Private Ophthalmic Hospital. Before returning to
Dublin he was in communication with the authorities of
the House of Industry Hospitals, with a view to his
appointment as Ophthalmic Surgeon to that institution,
but the negotiations fell through. Shortly after he re-
turned the late Dr. J. G. Hildige, then one of the most
prominent oculists in Dublin, died rather suddenly, and
Swanzy was appointed to the post he had occupied as Sur-
geon to the National Eye and Ear Hospital and General
Dispensary. This hospital had been founded in the year
1814, and was consequently the oldest ophthalmic hos-
pital in Ireland. It and St. Mark’s Hospital, which had
been founded by the late Sir William Wilde, were the
only special ophthalmic and aural hospitals in Dublin.
In 1814 a Mr. Ryall, who had formerly held a medical
appointment in the Royal Navy, was mainly instrumental
in forming the institution, and when he subsequently left Dublin it was carried on by Surgeon Morrison. In 1829 it was moved from the north side of the city to Cuffe Street—at that time a fashionable locality—where it seems to have flourished, doing much good work, until the year 1848, when, probably for want of necessary support, impossible to obtain in those times, it languished, although it did not altogether close its doors, and on Surgeon Morrison's death Dr. Hildige was appointed surgeon. Some years previous to this it had been thought advisable to incorporate with it a General Dispensary for Diseases of Women and Children, and at the time of Swanzy's appointment this department was under the care of the late Dr. Rutherford Kirkpatrick, who was then Examiner in Midwifery in the Royal College of Surgeons, and later on became Professor of Midwifery in the Medical School of the University of Dublin.

Very shortly after Swanzy had taken up work at the hospital he asked me if I would care to come and help him at it—an act of kindly friendship I can never forget. I gladly accepted his offer, for at the time I held no hospital appointment. Swanzy also occupied the post of Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Adelaide Hospital. The Eye and Ear Department of the Hospital was at a very low ebb owing to neglect consequent upon the ill health from which Dr. Hildige had suffered for some time previous to his death. It was, however, one of Swanzy's strongest characteristics that anything he undertook he carried through, even in the face of difficulties that would have daunted most men. We were both young, and, throwing ourselves with vigour into the work, we soon had the satisfaction of seeing a marked increase in the number of patients seeking relief at the hospital. As time went on it became obvious that a move into some more commodious and prominent position was essential, and accordingly a house was procured on the south side of St. Stephen's Green, and a committee of some influential persons was formed to take over the management of