



MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT  
OF  
PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF

J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D.,

AUTHOR OF

"THE SANITARY CONDITION OF BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE," "SANITARY  
CHART OF BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE," "TREATISE ON DWELLINGS FOR  
THE LABOURING CLASSES, AND EVILS OF THE WINDOW TAX," &c.

*Montreal:*

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.  
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# TESTIMONIALS.

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*From JAMES TURNBULL, Esq., M. D., Physician to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum.*

LIVERPOOL, 15th December, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—I received yesterday your letter, dated Toronto, 26th Nov., informing me of your intention to apply for the appointment of Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum of that place, and I most willingly comply with your request, to furnish you with a testimonial expressing my opinion of your ability and fitness for such an appointment.

During the period you practised at Birkenhead, I had many opportunities of meeting you in consultation, and of forming an opinion of your qualifications as a medical man, and when you removed from a practice where you were much esteemed by your patients, I regretted the loss which was so generally felt.

I consider that you are qualified in a high degree for the appointment you are now seeking, by your uniform kindness of manner and heart, and unwearied attention to your patients. By the extended course of education you received in Edinburgh, embracing attendance upon the large Asylum in the neighbourhood of that city, by your energy of character and habits, displayed more particularly in your published work, on the Sanitary Condition of Birkenhead, and by the experience you have acquired in general practice, and in the public appointment you then held.

I conceive, therefore, that it will be a fortunate circumstance for the inmates of the Asylum, if the services should be secured to them of one so eminently qualified for such a situation.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JAMES TURNBULL, M. D.,

*Physician to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary  
and Lunatic Asylum,*

To Dr. J. Hunter Robertson.

*From* GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq., M. D., *Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Soc., and Consulting Physician to the Bensham and Dunston Lunatic Asylum.*

26 ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 29th Dec., 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—Having taken an active part in the Sanitary movement in England, and thus enjoyed an opportunity of personally observing the extent of your professional acquirements, the respectable and influential nature of your position at Birkenhead, and the ability, zeal, and humanity which you then directed to philanthropic objects, I cannot but regard you as eminently qualified for the office of Medical Superintendent of an Hospital for the Insane.

Your attendance at Morningside and frequent visitation of other Asylums must have familiarized you with the recent improvements in the practical details of treatment: and from some experience on the subject, I can truly aver that the possession of high mental and moral qualities is even of more importance than a knowledge of hospital routine.

Wishing you all success in your application for the Canadian Asylum, I remain,

My dear Sir,  
Yours very truly,

GEORGE ROBINSON, M. D.,  
*Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and Consulting Physician to the Bensham and Dunston Lunatic Asylum.*

*From* EDWARD WATERS, Esq., M. D., *Fellow of the Royal College Physicians, Edinburgh, formerly Senior President of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh, and President of the Parisian Medical Society, &c., &c.*

NICHOLAS STREET, CHESTER, 22d December, 1853.

I have known Dr. J. Hunter Robertson for many years, and have personal knowledge of the unwearied assiduity with which he prosecuted his Medical studies in the university of Edinburgh. He not only distinguished himself by zeal in the general study of his profession, but he specially devoted himself to midwifery and mental derangement. His manners were uniformly kind and considerate, his conduct in all the relations of life unexceptionable; and it.

is my firm belief that his appointment as Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, will be beneficial to the establishment and the patients.

EDWARD WATERS, M. D.,  
*Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, formerly  
 Senior President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh,  
 and President of the Parisian Medical Society, &c., &c.*

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From CHARLES HAYS HIGGINS, Esq., M. D., *Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, Member of the Apothecaries Society, London; for many years Surgeon to the Somerset County Hospital, and member of the Obstetrical Society of Edinburgh; Member of the Liverpool Microscopic Society, &c., &c.*

BIRKENHEAD, CHESHIRE, 18th December, 1853.

I had the pleasure of personally knowing Dr. J. Hunter Robertson, and have much satisfaction in testifying to his private character, gentlemanly demeanor, and Professional merits. He was educated, and graduated in Edinburgh, was a prize man in his year, and for some time, paid much attention to mental disorders at one of the finest Asylums in the Kingdom, viz., the Royal Edinburgh, at Morningside, I consider him therefore very fit for the situation he is desirous of filling in Canada.

CHARLES HAYS HIGGINS, M. D.,  
*Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Member of the Apothecaries Society, London; for many years Surgeon to the Somerset County Hospital, and member of the Obstetrical Society of Edinburgh; Member of the Liverpool Microscopic Society, &c., &c.*

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From W. H. DUNCAN, Esq., M. D., *Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Liverpool, late Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary, and Lunatic Asylum.*

LIVERPOOL, 30th December, 1853.

Having been acquainted with DR. HUNTER ROBERTSON for several years when he resided at Birkenhead, I have much pleasure in



stating, that from what I know of his character and professional standing, and from the opportunities he has enjoyed of becoming practically acquainted with the various forms of insanity, and the modes of treatment best adapted for them, I believe that his appointment to the medical charge of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto, could not fail to give satisfaction to all interested in the management of that Institution.

W. H. DUNCAN, M. D.,

*Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Liverpool,  
late Physician to the Infirmary, &c.*

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*From R. BICKERSTETH, Esq., M. R. C. S. E., F. R. C. S., late Senior Surgeon to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum.*

2 RODNEY ST., LIVERPOOL, 29th December, 1853.

This is to certify that I have known DR. HUNTER ROBERTSON several years, and have frequently met him in consultations, during his residence at Birkenhead. I believe him to be in every way qualified for the situation of Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum near Toronto, having made this department of the profession his peculiar study.

R. BICKERSTETH,  
M. R. C. S. E.

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*From JAMES VOSE, Esq., M. D., Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum.*

LIVERPOOL, 29th December, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—You have applied to me as one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary here, for a testimonial of your qualifications, to fill the office of Medical Superintendent in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum near Toronto.

It gives me much pleasure to comply with your request, your general professional attainments, your experience in practice, and

your prolonged acquaintance with the management of the insane, render you in every way a most competent person to perform the duties of the Superintendent, for which you are a candidate.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JAMES VOSE, M. D.,

*Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary.*

Dr. J. Hunter Robertson.

*From JAMES MACKIE, Esq., M. D., Edinburgh, L. R. C. S. E., Physician  
Private Asylum for the Insane Hillend, Greenock.*

GREENOCK, 15th December, 1853.

Dr. J. H. Robertson was known to me as a diligent and distinguished student while studying at the University of Edinburgh.

During his residence there, he attended for a considerable period, the public Asylum for Lunatics at Morningside, in the neighbourhood of that city, where he had ample opportunities of acquiring experience in the treatment, medical and moral, of its inmates.

From the experience thus acquired, as well as from that acquired while in general practice at Birkinhead, I have no hesitation in expressing it as my opinion, that he is particularly well qualified to undertake the Medical Superintendence of an Asylum for the insane, or, indeed, that of any medical institution whatever.

JAMES MACKIE, M. D.,

*L. R. C. S. E., Physician Private Asylum  
for the Insane Hillend, Greenock.*

*From THOMAS S. MACCALL, Esq., M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of  
Physicians of Edinburgh, and Assistant Surgeon Edinburghshire Regi-  
ment of Militia.*

GREENOCK, 14th December, 1853.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have known Dr. J. H. Robertson for upwards of twelve years. When at the University of Edinburgh, Dr. Robertson was a most diligent and attentive Stu-

dent, and earned the esteem of all his teachers. I have had many opportunities of learning Dr. R's. success as a practitioner while at Birkenhead.

From the experience Dr. Robertson attained while attending the Lunatic Asylum at Morningside, and afterwards at Birkenhead, Dr. R. has had many and excellent opportunities of acquiring knowledge in that department. I have no hesitation, therefore, in declaring it to be my opinion, that Dr. R. is well qualified for taking charge of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum in Toronto, or any other.

THOMAS S. MACCALL, M. D.,

*Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and  
Assistant Surgeon Edinburghshire Regiment of Militia.*

*From C. O. BAYLIS, Esq., M. D., M. R. C. S. E., L. A. C., Birkenhead.*

HAMILTON SQUARE, 16th December, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—Understanding that you are a Candidate for the important office of Superintendent to the Lunatic Asylum at Toronto, I beg to render you my best wishes for your success. During the time I have had the pleasure of your acquaintance in this town, I have always experienced the greatest kindness and urbanity of disposition from you, have admired your great energy and industry, and the great attention and care you have bestowed on those who have entrusted their cases to your Medical skill, and I feel certain, that if you obtain the honor of this appointment, that the authorities of the Asylum will find you a most efficient officer for its management.

I am, dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

C. O. BAYLIS, M. D.,

*M. R. C. S. E., L. A. C.*

J. Hunter Robertson, Esq., M. D.

From DAVID PATERSON, Esq., L. R. C. S. E.

LIVERPOOL, 15th December, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 26th November, 1853, in which you ask me for a testimonial as to your qualification for the situation as Medical Superintendent of a Lunatic Asylum, came to hand in due time. In the first place, you pursued your studies with much care in Edinburgh, thereby grounding yourself well in the general theory of your profession. You attended with diligence the large and well regulated Asylum in the neighbourhood of that city, an excellent field for the observation and study of mental diseases in all their complications and forms, of which opportunity you fully availed yourself. In Birkenhead, where you held for some time an appointment under the Poor Law Commissioners, you had great opportunities for studying insanity, and at the same time arriving at a just and true knowledge of what that unfortunate class stand in need of. In the last place, from your energy of character, your kindness of disposition, and the great attention you bestowed upon your profession and patients, which caused your departure from Birkenhead to be much regretted, I think, should you obtain such an appointment, it will be fortunate for the inmates of any such institution; and with every wish for your happiness and success.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

DAVID PATERSON,  
L. R. C. S. E.

J. H. Robertson, Esq., M. D.

From DAVID P. THOMSON, Esq. M. D., Edinburgh, late Hon. Sec. Lit. and Philosoph. Soc. of Liverpool, author of "*Introduction to Meteorology*," &c., &c.

LIVERPOOL, 6th January, 1854.

Dr. J. Hunter Robertson and I first became acquainted some years ago, in the Edinburgh University, and the distinguished Professor of Midwifery there, will I doubt not testify to his zeal and ability as an *Obstetrician*. As a *general Practitioner* his patients might testify if appealed to. He was much esteemed by

them, and carried the respect of the profession. To *diseases of the mind* he paid no small attention, and as his present application bears relation to that most important department, I may be permitted to refer especially to it. I should not hesitate to entrust to him the treatment of the Insane, and consider that he would prove efficient in the superintendence of a Lunatic Asylum.

DAVID P. THOMSON, M. D.,

*Late Hon. Sec. Lit. and Philosoph. Soc. of Liverpool,  
Author of "Introduction to Meteorology, &c., &c."*

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From GEORGE WALKER, Esq., M. D., M. R. C. S. L., late Honorary Surgeon to Birkenhead Hospital.

BIRKENHEAD, 16th December, 1853.

I had the pleasure of knowing Dr. James Hunter Robertson, while practising here, a period of nearly eight years. He had an extensive practice, was noted for his kind and zealous attention to his patients, and favorably known for his advocacy of Sanitary measures connected with the Township.

GEORGE WALKER, M. D.,

*M. R. C. S. L., late Honorary Surgeon to Birkenhead Hospital.*

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From S. Edgar Esq., M. R. C. S. E.

BIRKENHEAD, 15th December, 1853.

DEAR SIR,—As I have very frequently met you in Medical consultations while you practised in Birkenhead, it gives me much pleasure to state that I have formed a good opinion of your abilities as a Physician, from the great attention you at all times showed to your patients, and the indefatigable services you performed for the Commissioners of Birkenhead when applied to by them with regard to the sanitary improvement of the Township, I feel sure that you are well qualified for the situation of Medical Superintendant of a Lunatic Asylum.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

S. EDGAR,

*M. R. C. S. E.*

Dr. J. Hunter Robertson.

From MATTHEW JENETTE, *Esq., M. R. C., S. L. S. A. D., Surgeon to Birkenhead Infirmary, Police Force, &c.*

BIRKENHEAD, ENGLAND, 15th December, 1853.

Having known Dr. J. H. Robertson for the seven years that he practised his profession here, it gives me great pleasure to testify to the respectable position he held as a Medical man with both rich and poor,—to the latter he devoted a large portion of his time, and with all he was energetic, considerate and attentive.

I sincerely wish he may obtain the appointment he desires in the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, as I am sure he is well calculated to perform the duties of the office efficiently.

MATTHEW JENETTE,  
*M. R. C., S. L. S. A. D., Surgeon to Birkenhead  
Infirmary, Police Force, &c.*

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From CHARLES RICKETTS, *Esq., M. R. C. S. E., Surgeon to the Birkenhead Lying-in Hospital.*

BIRKENHEAD, 16 PRICE ST., 16th December, 1853.

Having been acquainted with Dr. J. Hunter Robertson for nearly eight years, whilst practising at Birkenhead, I had frequent opportunities of forming an opinion of his professional abilities, and likewise enabled to testify to his zeal and assiduity in attending to the duties of an extensive practice, and to his uniform kindness and attention to the patients under his charge.

CHARLES RICKETTS,  
*M. R. C. S. E., Surgeon to the Birkenhead Lying-in Hospital.*

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From DAVID SKAE, *Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgeon to the Eye Dispensary of Edinburgh, now resident Physician at the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum.*

EDINBURGH, ARGYLE SQUARE, 15th September, 1845.

I have had the pleasure of Dr. J. H. ROBERTSON's acquaintance for several years, and gladly bear testimony to his abilities and professional attainments.

Dr. Robertson studied Medicine with great zeal and assiduity ; he enjoyed very favourable and extended opportunities of becoming practically acquainted with his profession ; and of these he availed himself with such ardour and perseverance, as to gain the esteem and confidence of all who knew him.

Dr. Robertson devoted himself during his studies in a particular manner to the subjects of Midwifery, and the diseases of Women and Children, with which I know him to be intimately conversant. I feel confident that Dr. Robertson, from his excellent education, his experience, his devotion to the profession, his steadiness and many aimable qualities, will meet with the confidence of all his patients, and that success which he eminently merits.

DAVID SKAE, M.D., F.R.C.S.,  
*Lecturer on Anatomy, Surgeon to the Eye Dispensary  
and Lock Hospital of Edinburgh."*

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*From J. Y. SIMPSON Esq., M. D., Professor of Midwifery in the University  
of Edinburgh, &c., &c.*

EDINBURGH, 52, QUEEN STREET, 20th November, 1845.

DR. ROBERTSON devoted himself to the study of Medicine at this University with great assiduity and talent. From my personal knowledge of Dr. Robertson, and from having seen his modes of practice at the bedside, I can strongly testify to his thorough practical knowledge of his profession. He has studied in a principal and special manner the department of Midwifery, and the diseases of Females and Children, and is most intimately acquainted with this branch of Medicine.

J. Y. SIMPSON, M. D.,  
*Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.*

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*From ALEX. D. CAMPBELL, Esq., M. B. of St. John's College, Oxford, F.  
R.C.S.E., Lecturer on Legal Medicine, &c. &c.*

EDINBURGH, 4, PICARDY PLACE, 15th September, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in complying with your request to express my opinion of your Medical qualifications. I do so with the more confidence because I speak not of what I heard, but of what I personally witnessed. During the summer and autumn of 1844, you assisted me in attending the poor of one of the

districts belonging to the New Town Dispensary here. I had every reason to be pleased with the professional knowledge and judgment you showed in the treatment of these cases, as well as with the assiduous attention which you displayed, and the affable and conciliatory manner in which you conducted yourself towards the poor entrusted to your care. Such, indeed, was my confidence in your diligence and skill, that on my leaving town for some time, I committed the charge of my district solely to your care. I know that you have had extensive opportunities of engaging in Midwifery practice, and that you were most industriously employed in prosecuting that branch of Medical study for some time. In short, I am confident, that with your persevering industry and professional knowledge, you cannot fail to gain that reputation and patronage which merit such as yours has a right to expect.

With my best wishes for your success, believe me,

Yours very truly,

ALEX. D. CAMPBELL,  
*M. B. St. John's Coll. Oxford, F. R. C. S. E.,*  
*Lecturer on Legal Medicine, &c., &c.*

To Dr. J. H. Robertson."

*From WM. WALKER Esq., M.R.C.S.E., Surgeon to the Eye Dispensary of Edinburgh.*

47, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, EDINBURGH, 22nd Sept., 1845.

I have been acquainted with Dr. J. H. ROBERTSON for some time, and it affords me great pleasure to bear testimony to his professional attainments. From his habits of study, his perfect acquaintance with the practical duties of his profession, and his high moral character, I feel convinced, that Dr. Robertson is well qualified to discharge the office of a Physician, with credit to himself, and with benefit to the patients who are under his care. Dr. Robertson has devoted a great part of his time,—and with success,—to the study of Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children.

WM. WALKER,  
*Surgeon to the Eye Dispensary of Edinburgh.*



From WM. M. MACKENZIE, Esq., L.R.C.S.E., M.R.M.C.S.E., &c.

EDINBURGH, 40, DUBLIN STREET, 16th September, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—It gives me great pleasure to comply with your request, to express my opinion of your qualification as a practitioner of Medicine. And this is most easily done, as I have only to say, that I know of no other man so highly qualified in all respects as you are for pursuing the peculiar and arduous duties of a medical man. Your extensive practical experience in Midwifery in particular, cannot fail to procure you the esteem and confidence of any community among whom you may settle, as well as the respect of Brother Practitioners with whom you may be brought into contact. In a word your acquirements and skill are calculated to make you as prosperous and successful in Medicine, as your sterling good sense, affable manners, and knowledge of the world, will make you useful in society generally.

Wishing you all the success and comfort you so well merit,

Believe me to be, with much respect,

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM M. MACKENZIE,

L.R.C.S.E., M.R.M.C.S.E., &c.

Jas. H. Robertson, Esq., M.D., &c.,

From HALLIDAY DOUGLAS, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S.E., Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

EDINBURGH, 15th September, 1845.

DR. JAS. HUNTER ROBERTSON was well known to me during his residence at Edinburgh; and I have been led to form a high opinion of his abilities. He was zealous and successful in the study of his profession, and his general deportment was always gentlemanlike and correct.

A. HALLIDAY DOUGLAS, M.D.,  
Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

From THOMAS G. WEIR, Esq., M.D., Edinburgh, Accoucheur to the Edinburgh New Town Dispensary.

EDINBURGH, 23rd Sept., 1845.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have been associated with Dr. James H. Robertson in the Edinburgh New Town Dispensary for the last two years during which time he had ample opportu-

nities of studying Midwifery, and the diseases of Females and Children. The proficiency to which he has attained in this branch of the profession proves how assiduously these opportunities were embraced, and should entitle him to perfect confidence from all those who may place themselves under his charge.

THOMAS G. WEIR, M. D.,  
*Accoucheur to the Edinburgh New Town Dispensary.*

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From ALEX. MONRO, Esq., M.D., *Professor of Anatomy in the University, Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH, 7th August, 1845.

DEAR SIR,—I most readily accede to your request in granting you my certificate of your respectability, and the zeal, assiduity, and success with which you have studied the different branches of Medicine; of which you gave the most distinct evidence before the Medical Faculty. And I indulge the hope, that your success in life may prove commensurate to your merit.

I remain, dear Sir,

Most truly yours,

ALEX. MONRO, M. D.

*Professor of Anatomy in the University, Edinburgh.*

To Dr. J. Hunter Robertson, &c. &c. &c.

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BIRKENHEAD, 17th April, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Health Committee to tender you their thanks, for the attention you have paid to their wishes in assisting to furnish them with a report on the present state of fever in the township, &c.

I beg to annex a copy of their resolution on the subject.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

WM. GREGORY,  
Secretary.

Dr. J. Hunter Robertson.

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COMMISSIONERS ROOMS,

BROMBRO, 16th February, 1848.

DEAR SIR,—I am requested by the Wirrall Board of Guardians to convey to you a note of thanks, unanimously passed, for the

very kind and valuable assistance afforded them in the late investigation into the condition and management of the Fever Hospital established in Birkenhead, as well as for the very satisfactory and able report with which they were favored on that occasion, and permit me individually to express to you the great pleasure I experience in being made the medium of communicating this resolution to you.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

JAMES MAINWARING,

Chairman.

To J. H. Robertson, Esq., M. D.

*From the OVERSEERS of the Township of Birkenhead.*

DATED AT BIRKENHEAD, *this 15th June, 1847.*

We the undersigned, the Overseers of the Township, or Chapelry of Birkenhead, do hereby certify that DR. J. HUNTER ROBERTSON has during his residence here devoted much time and attention to the Sanatory Reform of this Township, (which contains twenty-five thousand inhabitants,) and that he is author of the work entitled "BIRKENHEAD, ITS PRESENT SANATORY CONDITION," which has been compiled with great care and much accuracy, and has met the approbation of many of the Clergy and principal Inhabitants of Birkenhead. And we further certify to the respectability of character and the general reputation of the professional abilities of Dr. J. Hunter Robertson.

ROBERT HUGHES.

W. WILLIAMS MORTIMER.

*From the REV. J. BAYLEE, B.A., Incumbent of Holy Trini Church, Birkenhead.*

CLIFTON PARK, BIRKENHEAD, *19th June, 1847.*

DR. J. HUNTER ROBERTSON has been a member of my congregation for the last eighteen months, and I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to his and his family's consistencies as such.

As a medical practitioner he is favourably known here, confirming the creditable testimonials which he brought with him from Edinburgh.

His work on the sanatory condition of Birkenhead has received the approbation of competent judges, and added to the previous good opinion of his intelligence and skill.

While I should rejoice at any appointment advantageous to him, I would regret his removal from Birkenhead as a valued member of my Congregation.

JOSEPH BAYLEE, B. A.

# OPINIONS OF THE PRESS

ON

DR. ROBERTSON'S RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

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LIVERPOOL JOURNAL, 20th March, 1847.

*Birkenhead: its present Sanatory Condition.* By J. HUNTER  
ROBERTSON, M. D.

This is a neat volume, carefully compiled, on a subject which cannot fail deeply to interest. The sanatory is, very properly, the great question of the day, and the extent to which it is entertained affords, in our opinion, the best index of the progress of civilization. We are a moral people; we are prone, too, to boast of our enlightenment, yet it is a melancholy fact, that thousands of our fellow subjects are allowed to perish from causes which are removable. The apathy which exists can arise only from ignorance. The present volume is replete with valuable facts on this vital question, and hence we consider it as a welcome offering to humanity. Few towns in modern times have been built with such regard to sanatory regulations as Birkenhead; and in no instance has so much been accomplished for the health, comfort and enjoyment of a people, as by those energetic individuals with whose names the rise and progress of Birkenhead are so intimately connected. Yet without watchfulness and intelligence on the part of the inhabitants, the evils which so seriously affect other towns may gradually creep in; and such we find to be the case to a greater extent than we had apprehended. In 1841, the mortality in Birkenhead, was but one in 45; but latterly the average has arisen enormously, and in 1846 it was one in 28. The tables given show that the present mortality in Tranmere is considerably below that amount. In Birkenhead, fever appears to be extremely prevalent—the deaths from this cause annually being one in 313; while in Tranmere the average is only one in 774; and in the parish of Liverpool, one in 407. Our author calls the attention to the fact, that although there is an infirmary and dispensary in Birkenhead, there is no ward in it, nor any other place, for the

reception of individuals attacked with fever. This want should be at once supplied. It also appears that, although Birkenhead is admirably sewered, better indeed than any other town in the kingdom, there has been considerable neglect in providing drains in connexion with the sewers. Dr. Robertson's work is replete with valuable facts on the sanatory question, and as it contains many practical suggestions of great local value, we commend it to the deep attention of our Cheshire friends.

LIVERPOOL MERCURY, 19th March, 1847.

*Sanatory Condition of Birkenhead* by J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M.D.

A work, highly interesting to the residents of both sides of the Mersey, but more particularly to our friends in Cheshire, has this week issued from the press. It is entitled, "The present Sanatory Condition of Birkenhead, by J. Hunter Robertson, M.D." The statements it contains, authenticated by facts and figures, will somewhat startle the good people of Birkenhead, who have hitherto been consoling themselves with the idea, that that rising township was one of the most salubrious and healthy places in the kingdom. The author states, that "the mortality in Birkenhead during the past year has not only far exceeded the usual ratio, but has been equal to, if not greater than, that of any other town in England, with the sole exception of Liverpool." From the tables given, it appears that whilst the deaths in Birkenhead were, in 1841, 1 in 45, in 1845, 1 in 36-35, in 1846 they were 1 in 28½, the mortality in Liverpool in 1846 being in 26-25. The author adds, that although this shows a slight difference in favour of Birkenhead, "infantile mortality, and that most dreaded of all diseases—fever, exceeds that of Liverpool, according to the latest returns made of that town." In the course of his work he proceeds to point out the causes of this state of things, and amongst them he dwells upon the absence of a fever hospital in Birkenhead, the ill ventilation of the houses of the lower classes, the absence of house drains, the existence of 2405 cesspools in the township, a want of care in the selection of sites for the foundations of new buildings, the imperfect construction of middens, the over-crowding of lodging-houses and places of sepulture, the too early occupation of newly-built houses, and the want of water. He calculates that there are 330 houses and 57 courts without water, the number of inhabitants in them being 2437. Amongst the subjects which he notices, is the erection of baths and wash-houses, the position of the slaughter-houses, the practice of giving opiates to children; and, as a conclusion, he suggests the introduction of musical performances at

the Park during the summer months. The work is highly interesting; its statistics are important; and it cannot fail, we should think, to have a beneficial effect on the future condition of the rapidly increasing population of Birkenhead.

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### LIVERPOOL STANDARD, 13th April, 1847.

*Birkenhead, its Present Sanatory Condition.* By J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D.

It must be an unpleasant reflection to an inhabitant of Birkenhead that, with all the enterprize which has been bestowed upon the improvement of the locality, of which the proceedings of last week afforded signal proof, little indeed has been effected to render it a healthy place of residence for its rapidly increasing population. A fatal influence seems to be have been at work to counteract every effort of the authorities to do their work effectually, and to overcome the undoubted disadvantages of soil and position, under which Birkenhead labours.

Whilst the Commissioners have been laying out spacious streets and squares, forming extensive sewers, providing parks for the recreation of the public, and making provision for the proper surface cleansing of the entire town, the jerry-builder and the cottage-owner have been rearing the sources of future fever, and expenditure of money, health, and life itself.

The present condition of the locality, and the means to be adopted for the removal of existing evils, are ably pointed out in a work recently published by J. Hunter Robertson, Esq., M. D., of Birkenhead, the perusal of which we would strongly recommend to all interested in Sanatory matters, containing as it does some most important statistical facts and remarks, particularly that part relating to infantile mortality, and which ought to be perused by every parent.

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### LIVERPOOL ALBION.

*The present Sanatory condition of Birkenhead.* By J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D.

We believe this is the first volume ever printed and published in Birkenhead, and as such it may hereafter be deemed a curiosity. It is creditable to the young town in every respect, but particularly so as regards the object to which it is devoted. Dr. Robertson

has dedicated his work to Lord Morpeth. The learned doctor has left no branch of the subject untouched, and his remarks evince sound judgment, learning and close observation. This book abounds in valuable matter. Dr. Robertson states the startling fact, that "the mortality in Birkenhead during the past year has not only far exceeded the usual ratio, but has been equal to if not greater than, that of any other town in England, with the sole exception of Liverpool." Birkenhead is now in that state when those who have charge of its fate can take advantage of all the improvements of modern times; can bestow on the inhabitants the blessings every day brought to view by the wisdom and light now extending over the length and breadth of England; and, in short, plan, form, drain, water, light, and ventilate their town, from the beginning, on the most approved principles, so as to secure the utmost degree of health and convenience to the inhabitants. Dr. Robertson has furnished the local legislature of Birkenhead with abundance of evidence, advice, statistical information, and book lore of the highest value in a convenient compass, and we hope his facts and arguments will have the effect of inducing the inhabitants and their representatives at the Commissioners' Board, to turn their most ardent attention to a subject which, though not one which will yield an immediate pecuniary return, is second in importance to none of the multifarious weighty matters which daily come under their consideration.

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LIVERPOOL CHRONICLE, 27th March, 1847.

*The Present Sanatory Condition of Birkenhead; by J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D.*

This useful and well-written pamphlet is devoted to an inquiry into the Sanatory Condition of the "City of the future" on the opposite banks of the Mersey. The mortality, according to the author's tables, which appear to have been collected with care, exceeds that of any place in the kingdom except Liverpool, and the deductions from which, as far as we had an opportunity of testing them are truthful and conclusive. The author proves that Birkenhead is one of the best *sewered* towns in the kingdom, but what seems still more strange, is wretchedly drained—in fact, *not drained at all!* The facts contained in this *brochure* are startling, and the author has put them into a shape which cannot fail to command attention. The work is dedicated, by permission, to Lord Morpeth, and with this pamphlet before him, it sounds strange that his lordship should have gone out of his way last Monday to dilate upon the superior sanatory condition of Birkenhead. But the able men whose capital and talent have given existence to that

rising community have erred unintentionally, and now that a medical gentleman of no ordinary capacity has directed their attention to the subject in this striking form, all that public spirit and private exertion can do, will, we are certain, be done without delay, to obviate the evils thus prominently and timely brought forward.

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WEEKLY NEWS, 25th March, 1847.

*Birkenhead, its present Sanatory Condition ;* by J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D.

Works on such topics are much required. To towns, however long built, they are serviceable—to those in their infancy, invaluable. The expositions in this volume, we must confess, have startled us. Every inhabitant of Birkenhead, who loves his fellow-man, should read it—every father or master, who regards his offspring or his family. He convinces us of the awful average mortality of Birkenhead ; he does more, he traces out its cause,—foul air, deficient or neglected sewerage, contaminated water, grave pits, &c., and gives important information to mothers and nurses.

He is not only a gentleman of deep research, but of sound logical mind ; his style is clear, his object noble ; and we trust the inhabitants of Birkenhead will take advantage of the useful information the doctor gives them.

This is a work that should be in the hands of every householder in Birkenhead.

The publishers, Law and Pinkney, Waterloo-buildings, have executed their part of the task very ably. The volume is well printed, on excellent paper, and would be creditable to any London publisher.

THE STRANGERS' GUIDE IN BIRKENHEAD.

An interesting volume on "The present Sanatory Condition of Birkenhead," very ably written, has just issued from the press, by DR. J. HUNTER ROBERTSON. The searching investigation which Dr. Robertson has given the subject will make it a book of reference for some years to come, and will supply the public with information on the true state of Birkenhead which many must have long desired.

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CHESTER COURANT, 24th March, 1847.

*Birkenhead, its present Sanatory Condition ;* by J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D.

In this publication upon a subject of great local and national interest, Dr. Robertson has collected many important facts, which serve to show the necessity of unceasing vigilance in enforcing



such regulations as are requisite for securing the health and comfort of the people. Many of his practical suggestions are judicious and valuable; but there are other incidental deductions in which we do not quite concur. The main tendency of the book, however, is to a good purpose; and as we believe it will be found that some of the worst districts to which Dr. Robertson has directed public attention are the property of parties who hold seats at the Board of Birkenhead Commissioners, we trust that those in authority will forthwith show themselves superior to all mercenary considerations, and commence the "sanatory reforms" so earnestly recommended by our author. We shall take an opportunity at a future period of submitting to our readers a digest of Dr. Robertson's manual.

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GREENOCK ADVERTISER, 26th March, 1847.

*The Present Sanatory Condition of Birkenhead.* By J. HUNTER ROBERTSON, M. D. *Dedicated, by permission, to the Right Hon. Viscount Morpeth, M. P., Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests, &c.*

During last year, the rate of mortality at Birkenhead not only far exceeded its usual ratio, but equalled, and perhaps was greater than in any other town in England, Liverpool alone excepted. This has naturally attracted the notice of the author of the volume before us, in which he has given in an unpretending form, a vast amount of facts, arguments, and advices, which, if judiciously taken advantage of, cannot fail to be of material use to the future physical and moral well-being of that thriving and promising town. The authorities have it in their power to do now at comparatively little cost, in the way of draining, watering, and ventilating their town, what in a few years they will be unable to accomplish at ten times the price. Of the value of now adopting proper measures, as well as of their necessity, Dr. Robertson brings forward abundant evidence, the result of much careful reading and anxious thought and reflection. The sanatory condition of the people is one of great national importance, and is now attracting the attention of philanthropists as well as of the government; and every contribution to the general stock of information on the subject ought to be hailed with pleasure. The volume before us furnishes a large amount of matter truly valuable.

It may be something to tell in after-times, that the first book printed and published in Birkenhead, was on a subject of much importance, and was the production of one of Greenock's talented sons.

## LIVERPOOL MAIL.

**SANITARY CHART OF BIRKENHEAD.**—We have been favored with a copy of a Chart, just published by Dr. J. Hunter Robertson, of Hamilton Square. The Doctor it is well known has, for some time past, devoted scientific research into that important subject "The Health of Towns." His chart, in a tabular form, exhibits at one view the Sanitary state of Birkenhead and Tranmere, for 1848. It shows considerable improvement since the Doctor's last publication in 1846, but, with its Author, we have still to regret that what he justly calls the "monster nuisance," what once was Tranmere Pool, its many and huge uncovered drains, poisoning the whole surrounding atmosphere with pestiferous effusion. A very "Dead Sea" of filth and corruption, remains wholly unabated. From the tables, which appear to have been collected with great care, considerable useful information may be gleaned. One of the tables points out the important fact, that deaths from infectious diseases have been most numerous, where house drainage is most defective. It is also shewn that the deaths in Birkenhead and Tranmere, during 1848, were 97 above the average rate of England and Wales, and calculations are entered into to show, that if sanitary regulations had been carried out, so as to lower the mortality to the regular standard, there would have been an actual saving of £3559 15s. to the inhabitants. Under our improved sanitary system, it is calculated that at least one-third of the duration of sickness, and one-third, also, of its attendant expense, would be saved to the Township.

As the chart exhibits which are the healthy, and which the unhealthy streets and districts, all those interested in Birkenhead and Tranmere, as well as parties daily changing their residences to the Cheshire side, will do well to possess themselves of a copy.

## DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES, AND EVILS OF THE WINDOW TAX.

*From the Liverpool Albion.*

The *Sun* of Monday, in a leading article, copied from the Journal of Public Health, an important letter, written by Dr. J. Hunter Robertson, of Birkenhead, entitled, "Remarks on Dwellings for the Labouring Classes," in which he calls attention to the excellent accommodation for poor families, the superior comforts and conveniences, and the advantages in point of salubrity of the dwellings recently erected at Birkenhead, by the Dock Company of that place. Dr. Robertson combines, with his observations on the dwellings, some remarks on the evil effects of the window tax,

which acts not only as an oppressive tax on such tenements, but as an antagonist to their utility. If society would but take the trouble, says Dr. Robertson, to enquire how largely the Poor Houses, the Hospital, and even the Lunatic Asylum are tenanted by those, who, but for the pestilential and pestiferous dwellings, might perhaps have been healthy and actively working members of the community, they would find that in addition to all that the poor really suffer, the middle and upper classes pay enormously for the defective system, in the shape of increased rates, and in increased voluntary contributions.

The buildings alluded to were built to accommodate 350 families, at a cost to the Dock Company of £50,000, the window tax upon which alone, amounts to £600 per annum, and as a matter of course, this tax falls upon the tenant in the shape of rent.

We shall be glad if the letter of Dr. Robertson be the means of calling the attention of legislators to this matter, and take the opportunity of cordially recommending to the attention of our readers the "Journal of Public Health and Monthly Record of Sanitary Improvement."

