

Robertson Twentyman

Lightfoot

(1815-1908) LRCSEd August 6th 1833

LSA

Reference and contact details:

GB779 RCSEd GD/72

Location: Plans chest Drawer 3

Title: Robertson T. Lightfoot

LRCSEd 1833

Dates of Creation: 1833-1835

Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Extent: 1 manuscript notebook 16 x 9.5 x .5 cms

26 leaves

Name of Creator: R T Lightfoot

Language of Material: English.

Level of Description: item

Administrative/Biographical History:

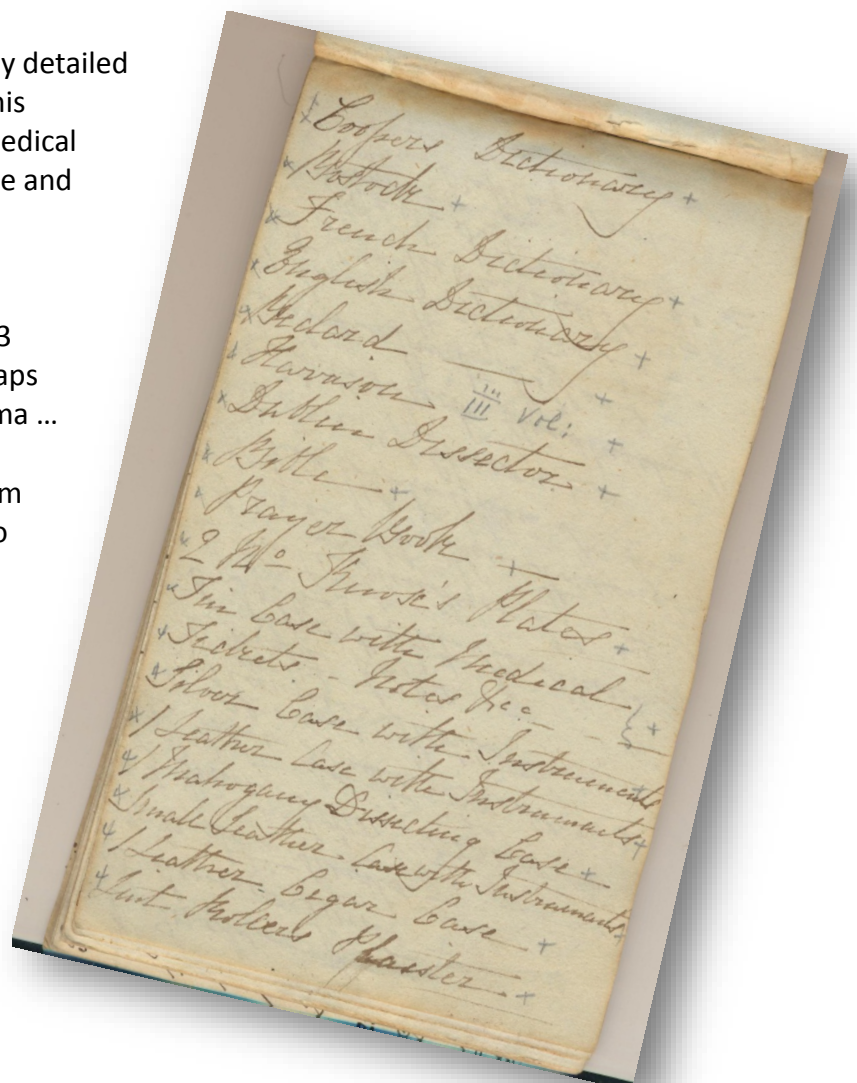
Transferred from the archive of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to the RCSEd October 8th 2012.

Dr Lightfoot was LRCSEd



This small notebook of 26 pages has minutely detailed accounts kept by R T Lightfoot, possibly for his mother, who may have been financing his medical education and travel in the UK then to France and Germany.

He lists medical book, food and drink costs, laundry, clothes purchases – "8 linen shirts, 3 night shirts, 3 pairs white trousers, 4 night caps ...tartan dressing gown...tin case with diploma ... lecture tickets ... bribe [?] for doorkeeper...dissections costs... fare by steam boat to Newcastle ... fare from New Castle to London ...



His obituary appeared in the British Medical Journal of 1908, September 12th
page 777

“ROBERT TWENTYMAN LIGHTFOOT, L.R.C.S.EDIN., L.S.A.

In Robert Twentyman Lightfoot there has passed away, at the advanced age of 93 years, the father of the medical profession in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and a highly-trained cultured practitioner who formed an interesting link between the present and the past. Although little known to this generation, Mr Lightfoot was until recently a familiar figure in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where in his earlier years he was regarded as a good operator and an accomplished surgeon. The late Professor George Y. Heath, who was an excellent judge of men and talent, had a high opinion of Mr Lightfoot's ability, for in him were combined rare diagnostic power with manipulative skill.

It was his wide reading, well-stored and cultured mind, along with a gentle and unobtrusive manner suggestive of an age that is gone, that made Mr Lightfoot so lovable a character, and so successful a practitioner. In him there was neither malice nor un-charitableness, but a good word for all men.

Born at Carlisle on April 11th, 1815, and educated in Edinburgh, Vienna, Berlin, and Paris, Mr Lightfoot settled in Newcastle in 1838. Since then and until within the last two or three years, his tall and erect figure might frequently be seen in the streets of his adopted city, for he always visited his patients on foot. The death of a son a few years ago visibly affected him, as well as the serious illness of his wife, a sister of the late Sir Lothian Bell, who, although an invalid, survives him.

In his student days Mr Lightfoot was one of the Demonstrators of Anatomy under Dr Knox of Edinburgh during the stirring times of the resurrectionists, when Burke and Hare plied their foul trade in supplying bodies for the dissection rooms. In Mr Lightfoot there has therefore passed away the last of the body of men who lived at that dark period in the history of anatomy in this country. The late Sir William Fergusson, and Dr Lonsdale, the biographer of Knox, were his intimate friends.

It is only just to the memory of Knox to state that it was Mr Lightfoot's belief that neither Knox nor any of his assistants knew that the bodies brought to the anatomy rooms by Burke and Hare had been the victims of murder.

Mr Lightfoot died on August 27th at Hove, Brighton, and was buried in Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on August 31st. Previous to the interment a short service was held in the cathedral. A kinder and more genial member of the medical profession or one imbued with nobler ideas it would be difficult to find. Having long outlived his contemporaries, he has gone to his rest full of years and hope, amid expressions of deep regret of old patients and of all who had the privilege of knowing him.”