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Whilst the last sheets of this volume were passing through the press we were shocked by the intelligence of the death of Professor George Rolleston, whereby this Society has sustained the loss of a valued member who has given it a cordial support from its commencement, and the Scientific world one of its greatest ornaments. His life, though comparatively short, has been a brilliant one. He was the second son of the Rev. George Rolleston, and was born at Maltby, in Yorkshire, in 1829. He was educated at Gainsborough and Sheffield, and matriculated at Pembroke College, Oxford, 8th December, 1846, aged 17 years. He obtained a First Class in Classics in 1850, and was elected a Fellow of his College. After studying medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he went to Smyrna as Assistant Physician in the British Civil Hospital, where he continued during the Crimean war. On his return, in 1857, he was appointed Physician to the Children's Hospital in London, and in the same year he succeeded Dr. Acland as Lee's Reader in Anatomy at Christ Church. In 1860 he was appointed to the newly founded Chair of Anatomy and Physiology as the first Linacre Professor, which office he continued to hold until his death. In 1862 he married, thereby vacating his Fellowship at Pembroke College. In the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1872 a Fellow of Merton College, which was tenable by a married man as Professor, whilst he was a Member of the Council of the University and represented Oxford in the General Medical Council, and at the same time he was one of the most active and valuable members of the Oxford Local Board. Notwithstanding the multifarious duties arising out of these various offices, his active brain and facile pen were ever at work. His contributions to the Transactions of many learned Societies and to other scientific periodicals, chiefly relating to Anthropology, or the study of man in his various aspects, were numerous, but the works by which he will be most known are his *Forms of Animal Life*, an outline of zoological classification based upon anatomical observation, which he wrote chiefly for the purpose of scientific education at Oxford, and his contributions to Canon Greenwell's *British Barrows*.

In our own Society he took a great interest, and our Transactions from the first volume to the present have been enriched by several valuable communications from him. Probably his latest literary act was his letter written to Mr. Witts from Genoa, in January last, on the "West Tump" Tumulus, and printed, at his special request, in our present volume, in connection with Mr. Witts' monograph on that monument.

As a lecturer, Professor Rolleston was rapid and lucid. His wide culture and keen sense of humour riveted the attention of his hearers. In him we have lost one of the greatest of our scientists. It has been well said: his mind was wholly given to the study of man as man, "His descent, his development, his relation to other beings, their relation to each other and to the organic world. Every department of anatomy, however minute, of physiology, however abstruse, and of ethnology, however complex, from time to time yielded a store of material for his vigorous grasp."

The state of Dr. Rolleston's health has some time been a cause of great uneasiness to his friends, and in the autumn of last year his medical attendants advised a lengthened retreat in Italy and rest from his labours. From Genoa he wrote to Mr. Witts on 17th January, as mentioned above, and it would appear that he then indulged the hope of returning to England and resuming his favourite studies. This, however, was not to be. He gradually sank, and it was with difficulty he could be brought home to die. His valuable life terminated on 17th June, a few days only after his return. He married Grace Davy, granddaughter of Sir Humphry Davy, F.R.S., by whom he leaves a numerous young family. Mrs. Rolleston, at the time of her husband's death, was lying grievously ill and unconscious in the same house.