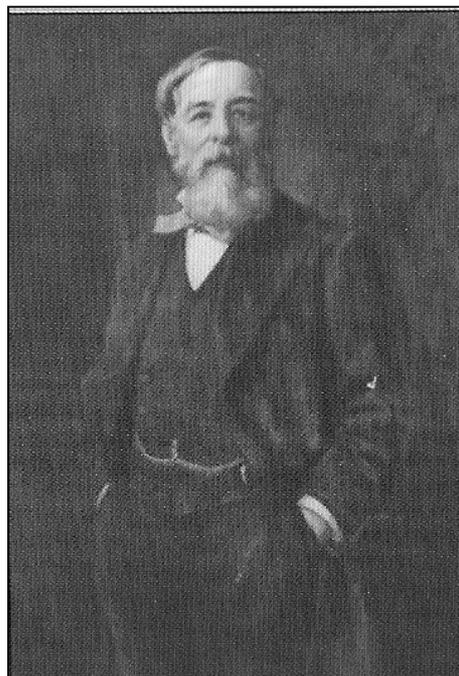


SIR JAMES FREDERICK GOODHART, Bt. (1845-1916). M.B., C.M. (Aberdeen), M.D. (Lond), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Hon. LL.D. (Aberd.) - Physician, Paediatrician, and Pathologist.

What struck me most about Goodhart as a consultant was that he was always right.

British Medical Journal (1916).

In the early years of the clinical thermometer, and when James Frederick Goodhart (1845-1916) [Epsom College 1855-1864. prefect. Brande Prize] was a house-physician at Guy's Hospital, he was to be found one morning in the depths of a very cold winter, lying in his cold bath, to discover what effect this would have upon his body temperature, by closely watching the thermometer. He was always a great investigator, taking nothing on trust that he could not confirm for himself. His father, Alfred Harrington Goodhart, had been in practice in Brighton for twelve years when he died of tuberculosis at the early age of thirty-four, before having the time and income to provide for his wife and five children. This destitute family was just the kind that John Propert had envisaged would benefit from a free education when planning his Benevolent College and Mrs Goodhart applied for help. As a result of this James Goodhart entered Epsom College in 1855 at the early age of ten years as one of the first Foundation Scholars. Nine years later he proceeded to Guy's Hospital where he won the gold medal for clinical medicine (1867), before entering Aberdeen University where he qualified M.B., C.M. with the highest honours (1868). In 1873 he took the M.D. at the same university, which twenty-five years later awarded him the honorary degree of LL.D. In 1877 he was appointed assistant physician and demonstrator in morbid anatomy and pathology at Guy's Hospital. Pathology soon became his major interest and he worked in the post-mortem room for about thirteen years. From 1881 to 1888 he was Physician at the Evelina Hospital for Children and, in 1899 he was appointed Consulting Physician at Guy's Hospital (see below). He was the author of *The Student's Guide to the Diseases of Children*, first published in 1885, but reaching a tenth edition in 1913, with added French and American editions. In 1891 James Goodhart delivered the Harveian lectures before the Harveian Society of London. These lectures, entitled '*Common Neuroses, or the Neurotic element in Disease and its Rational Treatment* were published in *The Lancet* and later as a book. He well understood the difficulties in treating patients with functional disorders and was definite in his advice against giving drugs just to relieve bodily



symptoms in such cases. In 1883 he was Vice-President of the Section of Pathology and Bacteriology of the British Medical Association at its annual meeting in Liverpool and, in 1891 he was President of the Section of Diseases of Children at the annual meeting in Bournemouth. For four years Goodhart acted as examiner in medicine for the Royal College of Physicians; in 1885 he delivered the prestigious Bradshaw Lecture and, in 1912 was Harveian Orator.



Although it was as a teacher in the medical school that Sir James Goodhart was most

successful, it was in the pathology department that he was particularly brilliant, where by his accurate method of observation of every minute particular he soon taught others to keep their eyes equally wide open, while his explanations of what a post-mortem revealed were lucidly communicated. The connection of morbid pathology with the presentation of disease in life was a particular interest of his and he regularly attended the post-mortem examination of his patients where he accurately forecast what abnormalities would be found. It was said that even the most backward student could hardly fail to have followed him. Such was his enthusiasm for morbid pathology that he completely reorganised the museum at the Royal College of Surgeons and became the Curator of the Pathology Museum at Guy's Hospital (above). The personal magnetism which gave him such exceptional powers as a physician and brought him so large a share of the consulting practice in this country attached his professional colleagues to him as firmly as his patients. It was said of him: "The story of his professional life was one of continued success. His skill in diagnosis, his resourcefulness in treatment, and his candid attitude towards patients and professional colleagues alike led him to be one of the most popular and well-loved physicians." At one time he was said to have had the busiest medical practice in London. "He never spared himself, and would always come down at any hour to see a member of the profession or one of his family always with a cheerful spirit." He was a hard worker in the truest sense of the word. "In the old days, before the motor car, he would travel many miles by train and cab within the metropolitan area to fulfil his numerous engagements. For his achievements he was awarded a baronetcy by King George V in the Coronation Honours.