

Graham Lusk, 1866–1932.

GRAHAM LUSK, Professor of Physiology in Cornell University in New York, was born at Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1866. His father, William Thompson Lusk, played, as a young man, a distinguished part in the American Civil War: his letters from the front, privately printed in 1911, form a volume of singular interest. After the war he took up Medicine, and eventually settled in New York where he became Professor of Obstetrics in Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

Graham was not educated for the medical profession, but devoted his attention mainly to Chemistry, and at the age of twenty-one his father sent him to Munich to work at Physiological Chemistry under Voit, the collaborator and successor of Pettenkofer. Voit inspired in him a devoted attachment and admiration to which he frequently gave expression. His first paper—on diabetes—was founded on work performed in Voit's laboratory; his last paper, published in 1931, was concerned with the same subject. In the meantime he had worked steadily and written much; chiefly on carbohydrate metabolism, but also on general metabolism and nutrition. On these matters he came to be recognised as one of the first authorities, so that in the Great War he was appointed to represent the United States on the Inter-Allied Scientific Food Commission, which was concerned with the distribution of foodstuffs not only to the military forces but also to the civil population of the allied nations. His knowledge of the general subject of nutrition was indeed encyclopædic; his work *Elements of the Science of Nutrition*, which has gone through four editions, is a monument to his grasp of the subject, and is remarkable for the energy with which he defends any position he takes up on controversial subjects, of which the doctrine of "specific dynamic action" of foodstuffs may be cited as a prominent example.

He was an Honorary Member of the Physiological Society, and only this year was elected to the Foreign Membership of the Royal Society. He would doubtless long since have received a similar honour from the Royal Society of Edinburgh had he not been already an Ordinary Fellow for many years (since 1900).

Deafness, from which he suffered during most of his life, was a severe handicap. But he managed largely to overcome the difficulties it

presented, and his audiphone placed on the table before him was a familiar object at the scientific meetings he attended. Gentle and unassuming in character, he had many friends on both sides of the Atlantic, and his memory will be long cherished by them. He was married in 1899 to May Tiffany, who, with two sons and a daughter, survives him. No one could be more happy in his home life, nor will anyone who visited their home on Long Island easily forget the charm of its surroundings and the hospitable welcome of its inhabitants.

E. S.-S.