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ARTHUR ROBERTSON CUSHNY AND
PHARMACOLOGY

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On the evening of February twenty-fifth Arthur Robertson Cushny, apparently in robust health, was stricken down at the comparatively early age of sixty by a rapidly fatal cerebral hemorrhage. He was the fourth son of the late Reverend John Cushny, of Speymouth, Morayshire, Scotland, and was educated at Aberdeen University where he graduated M.A. in 1886 and bachelor of medicine and master of surgery in 1889. In the autumn of that year, having won the Thompson fellowship, he entered at Berne the laboratory of the physiologist, Hugo Kronecker, a former assistant of the great physiologist, Carl Ludwig, of Leipzig, for a year's further training in the methods of physiological research. I also had gone to Berne, to work in the laboratory of the distinguished biochemist, v. Nencki. The laboratories in which we two worked were far apart, that of Kronecker being distant from the medical quarter, and so we became barely acquainted in that year. Little did either of us foresee in those days that the future would bind us closely together and that both of us would take up pharmacology as our life work. After his year with Kronecker, Cushny went to Strassburg for a year's work with Oswald Schmiedeberg, at that time the outstanding figure of pharmacology in Europe. After a year's work at Strassburg young Cushny was appointed to an assistantship (1892-93) in the laboratory of Schmiedeberg. This eminent scientist, trained in physiology in the school of Ludwig, as also in the chemical laboratories, had early won the esteem of Ludwig by his masterly analysis in 1870, in the Leipzig laboratory, of the action of muscarine and nicotine on the nervous elements of the amphibian heart. Once on my alluding to Schmiedeberg's newly published "Grundriss der Arzneimittellehre" Ludwig summed up the man in the words, "Ach, der Schmiedeberg, das its ein Genie." It was he more than any other one man, who following in the footsteps of his teacher Buchheim, at Dorpat, turned the age-old materia medica and therapeutics of our medical schools into the modern and fundamental science of pharmacology. The development of this science is intimately connected with that of physiology and chemistry, but here reference can only be made to its connection with the former science. The experiments of Magendie, of Johannes Müller and later of Tiedemann, Gmelin, Bernard and many others, although undertaken to elucidate physiological problems, really laid the found-

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