

THE LATE SIR JOHN M'GREGOR, M.D., K.C.B.

Sir John M'Gregor was the second son of the late Duncan Macandrew, of Culross, county Perth, N.B., by Mary daughter of Mr John M'Dermott, of Perth. He was born October 20, 1791, and educated at the University of Edinburgh. Entered the medical department of the army 1809; served in the expedition to Walcheren 1809, and was present at the taking of that island and the forts of Terbeer and Ramakins; present at the siege of Flushing, and served with part of the army in South Beveland, General the Earl of Chatham commanding; served in the Peninsula under his Grace the Duke of Wellington from 1811 to 1813, and was present at the siege of Badajos, and in all the cavalry actions against the French in Lord Hill's advance to Merida, and the retreat from Burgos, as well as in various other operations of the second division of the army in Spain and Portugal; was appointed surgeon to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, February 1, 1819; served in his Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, twice in Bengal and the island of Ceylon; was present at the capture of Fort Minora and the surrender of the town of Durrachee in Lower Scinde; was senior medical officer of the army sent to the relief of the forces employed against the fort of Kujjuck, Upper Scinde, February 21, 22, and 23, 1841; present during the investment of Kandahar, end of 1841, beginning of 1842; senior medical officer of the force sent under Brigadier Wymer for the relief of Kelat-i-Ghilzie, May 1 to June 7, 1842; present during the second Afghanistan campaign, 1842, and with the army on its return to the British provinces, through the Khoord, Cabool, and Khyber Passes, August 1 to December 1843, and was present at the following actions fought during the foregoing period: - The battle of Kallee Shuck, January 12, 1842; present at the actions of Runga Ruck, Pangwaris and Zilla Ostracy, March 7, 8, 9, and 10 1842; present at the battle of Baba Walla, March 25 1842; battle of Gowine, August 30, 1842; at the capture of Ghuznee and the storming of the heights of Bellool, September 5 and 6; present at the affairs of Bene Bedam and Mydam, September 14 and 15; present during the attack on the rear guard from Skoorab to Gundamuck (Khoord Cabool Pass), October 19; affair with the rear guard from Lundekama to Ali Musjid (Khyber Pass), November 4 and 5, 1842' was principal medical officer with the Kandahar field force during the whole of these operations under the command of Major-General Sir W Nott; present and acted as principal medical officer of Queen's troops at the battle of Maharajpore, in the dominions of Scindia, December 29, 1843, General Lord Viscount Gough commanding; served a second time in the island of Ceylon, and was senior medical officer in the Kandian provinces during the rebellion in 1848. Was three years principal medical officer in Hongkong, China, 1850 to 1853; three years as deputy inspector-general and principal medical officer at Madras, 1853 to 1856; one year and two months as inspector-general in Bengal, and travelled during the latter period in the performance of his duties 4,462 miles. Served in the north-west provinces of India during the mutiny of the native Bengal army. Was present at the siege of Delhi, and the storming and capture of the city on September 14, 1857. Sent as principal medical officer with the army proceeding to Lucknow under the command of Sir C Campbell, and was present at the capture of the city in March 1858. Recommended for promotion by Lieutenant-Colonel Hibbert, commanding the 40th, and Major-General Sir W Nott, for services performed as chief medical officer of the Kandahar field force in Beloochistan, Scinde, and Afghanistan. Recommended for promotion by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India for services performed at the battle of Maharajpore, but was the only officer at the head of a department in Sir W Nott's army not promoted on its return to India. As before stated, he entered the medical department as Hospital assistant June 27, 1809; became Assistant-Surgeon February 15, 1810; Regimental Surgeon April 30, 1822, Staff Surgeon July 7, 1846; Deputy Inspector-General, 1853; Inspector-General, 1856. Sir John was made an honorary Physician to Her Majesty in August, 1859, and was, in recognition of his eminent Professional services, created a Knight Commander of the Bath in the same year. In August, 1863, he assumed the name of M'Gregor instead of his patronymic, the family being descended from the M'Gregors of Rora, the name having been changed after the rebellion in Scotland in 1745. He died at Corstorphine Lodge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, on January 13, 1866, at the age of 74. He was buried at the cemetery in that place.

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Researched and typed by Janette Gregson