Dr. John Snow, so well known in this Society, died on the 16th of June last, at the age of forty-five. It was during his year of office as one of our Council that an attack of apoplexy deprived us of one who frequently took part in our debates, and who most assiduously attended to his duties in the council-room. Dr. Snow paid great attention to the investigation of cholera, and published some papers on his views of the effect of drinking impure water as propagating that disease; but he has been chiefly known to the profession in connexion with chloroform, a subject which he took up with great earnestness and success soon after Dr. Simpson's first introduction of it. His researches into the best mode of its administration, and its effects on animals, are well known, and he was perhaps more extensively conversant with its operation, and more successful in administering it, than any living person. Dr. Snow was in constant requisition by all the principal London surgeons at their operations, and, indeed, devoted himself to it as his chief branch of practice. It has been supposed that out of the many thousand cases in which he used it, only one death occurred. It is well known that he was engaged to administer chloroform to our Queen in her two last confinements with his usual success, though in cases of labour perhaps there is less opportunity for any peculiar skill being shown, as the chloroform can only be properly given in an ordinary case, under the direction and control of the accoucheur, as to the time of giving it and withholding it, and the degree of effect to be produced. Dr. Snow, about a year before his death, had introduced a new anaesthetic agent, from which he had hoped great things—amylene, and expected it would not only be likely to produce less unpleasant effects than chloroform, but also be safer as far as life was concerned. It happened, however, that after a very few trials of it, under thirty, I believe, a fatal result occurred, and from that time he discontinued it. Dr. Snow was recognised everywhere as a remarkably modest and
unassuming man, strictly honorable, of a thoroughly amiable disposition, and few have been more regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. There is an interesting memoir of him by Dr. Richardson, in a new edition of his own well-known work on anaesthetics. He was formerly Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Aldersgate School, and was also President of the Medical Society of London.