



Surg.-Lieut.-Col. J. B. Hughes.

James Brierley HUGHES

James Brierley HUGHES was a doctor, who served Macclesfield for over 40 years.

James Brierley Hughes was born in Congleton in 1844 the son of Rev. John Hughes, Rector of St Peter's, Congleton and his wife Jane Stockdale Brierley Hughes.

He attended Macclesfield Grammar School and, after leaving school, was apprenticed to Dr Bullock of Congleton. Subsequently he trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London gaining the following qualifications, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London.

On 1st January 1867 he commenced practice as Medical Officer of the Macclesfield Workhouse, District Medical Officer for Macclesfield and Public Vaccinator for the Borough. He held these three offices for over 40 years until his death.

James Brierley Hughes was married on 5 July 1871 at St Mary's Church, Stockport, to Elizabeth Hill the daughter of Thomas Hill of Woodhall, Stockport. They had three sons, two of whom, John Brierley Hughes and Guy Hughes became Doctors practising in Macclesfield and the third, George Hill Hughes, who became a master at Marlborough College. Their daughter Dorothy Jane Hughes married a Doctor.

In 1872 he was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the newly opened Macclesfield Infirmary later serving as Honorary Consulting Surgeon, and in 1873, he joined the 2nd Royal Cheshire Militia as Surgeon Captain.

In the 1891 census he was living at 67 Roe Street, Macclesfield with his wife and family.

In 1891 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel Surgeon of the 4th Battalion the Cheshire Regiment. When the battalion was mobilised during the South African War, he went with them to Tipperary, but was too ill to embark with the rest of the regiment for South Africa. As soon as he was well enough he was sent to be Doctor in charge of the Depot in Birmingham.

He was also a Conservative representative for No 3 Ward on Macclesfield Town Council being first elected in 1903. He was a member of the Water, Town Hall, Library and Health Committees.

James Brierley Hughes died about noon on Tuesday 25 August 1908 at his home 67 Roe Street, Macclesfield. He suffered from heart trouble and even the advice of a Manchester specialist and the devoted nursing of Mrs Hughes could not bring about a recovery. One of his last wishes was that his funeral should be as quiet as possible and without flowers.

The funeral cortege left Roe Street Macclesfield and proceeded by road to St Peter's Congleton. After the service conducted by his brother in law the Rev. F. J. Jomini M.A. his remains were interred in the family vault.

His obituary reads; Bluff and outspoken, and always uncompromising in his detestation of sham and mere empty parade, Dr Hughes was not given to "coddling" his patients, or anybody else with whom he came into contact, but he nevertheless earned their respect and complete confidence.