

England's Noted Woman-man.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

The revelation that "Mr." Murray Hill, the Tammany politician of New York, was a woman, has revived interest in England in Dr. "James" Barry, who rose to the rank of inspector general of the army medical department.

In giving "his" extraordinary career, the Dictionary of National Biography says: "She is said to have been the daughter of a Scotch earl. She entered the army as a hospital assistant attired as a man on July 5, 1813. She soon secured promotion, being appointed assistant surgeon in 1815, general in 1851, and inspector general in 1858, and was placed on half pay in 1859."

In 1819 Lord Albemarle met her at Cape Town, where she was attending Lord Charles Somerset, the governor. She is described as "the most skillful of surgeons and the most wayward of men; in appearance a beardless lad, with an unmistakably Scotch type of countenance, reddish hair and high cheek bones. There was a certain effeminacy in his manner which he was always striving to overcome. His style of conversation was greatly superior to that usually heard at a mess table in those days."

She had no small share of personal courage, and often quarreled. At the Cape she fought a duel. Her temper made her frequently guilty of breaches of discipline, and more than once she was sent to England under arrest, but she was always pardoned.

A correspondent, writing to a London paper, says:

"I think you will find that when, some years before his death, Dr. Barry was stationed at Georgetown (B. G.) he was 'bowled out,' so to speak. He had fallen so seriously ill that the doctors called in to attend him had to overhaul him, with the result that his sex was revealed. He appealed to his brother medicos to keep his secret, and this was done until his death."

She died in London in 1865, when an official report of her sex was sent to the Horse Guards. Love for an army surgeon is said to have prompted her extraordinary conduct.