

JONES, ROBERT ISAAC (Alltud Eifion; 1813 - 1905), pharmacist, littérateur and printer

Name: Robert Isaac Jones
Pseudonym: Alltud Eifion
Date of birth: 1813
Date of death: 1905
Spouse: Elizabeth Jones (née Hughes)
Gender: Male
Occupation: pharmacist, littérateur and printer
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Medicine; Printing and Publishing; Science and Mathematics
Author: William Rowlands

Born at Tyddyn Iolyn, Pentrefelin, near Portmadoc. On his mother's side he claimed descent from the family of Roberts of Isallt, Eifionydd, renowned as physicians, and he also claimed special gifts as a physician and veterinary surgeon. He was educated in his home neighbourhood, and about 1831 was apprenticed to a pharmacist at Pwllheli; he was afterwards at Caernarvon and London. At Tremadoc in 1838 he opened a business as a pharmacist which he called the 'Cambrian Pill Dépôt,' and he became famous as the proprietor of the celebrated 'Tremadoc Pills' which claimed to cure all manner of ailments.

He also started a printing-press at Tremadoc, where he printed various publications, and a number of Welsh books. In November 1858 he began publishing *Y Brython*, a weekly newspaper, but at the beginning of 1859 it became a monthly magazine; **Daniel Silvan Evans** was co-editor till 1860, but owing to lack of support publication ceased in 1863.

He was a keen eisteddfodwr, and wrote a good deal of verse, but did not excel. He published and edited *Gwaith Barddonol Sion Wyn o Eifion*, 1861; *Cyff Beuno* (Eben Fardd), 1863; *Cell Meudwy* (Ellis Owen), 1877; *John Ystumilyn*, 1888; *Yr Emynydd Cristionogol*, 1889; *Y Gestiana, sef, Hanes Tre'r Gest*, 1892.

He left the Methodists and became a faithful member of the Anglican church at Tremadoc, and started a Sunday school in the town hall. He also edited and published *Baner y Groes*, a Church monthly magazine, and he contributed articles to *Yr Haul*, *Y Llan*, and *Cymru*. He died 7 March 1905, and was buried at Ynyscynhaearn.

Author

William Rowlands

Sources

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Enwogion Sir Gaernarfon (1922), 205-6

Llenyddiaeth fy Ngwlad: sef hanes y newyddiadur a'r cylchgrawn Cymreig yn Nghymru, America, ac Awstralia, yn nghyd a'u dylanwad ar fywyd cenedl y Cymry (Treffynnon 1893), 119

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Y Llan, 29 December 1893

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

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for his family connections see J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families* (1914), 359

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