

IN MEMORIAM.

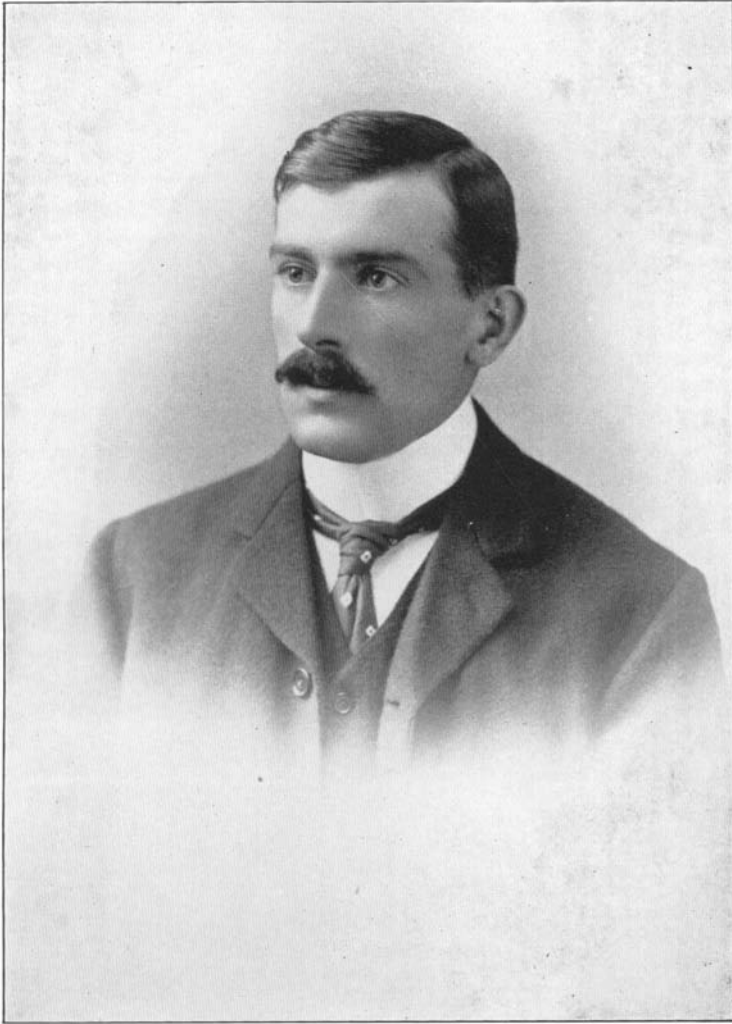
PATRICK THURBURN MANSON.

THE sudden death of Patrick Thurburn Manson has left a gap in the ranks of the promising young investigators of this country. The widespread regret felt by those who knew him or his work bears fitting testimony to the esteem in which he was held both for himself and as his father's son.

He was born on the 20th of August, 1878, in Amoy, China, where his father had recently made his great discovery of the development of *Filaria bancrofti* in the mosquito. Young Manson was educated at Harrow, and entered Guy's Hospital in 1895. In 1900 he took the degree of M.B. at London University, and subsequently studied pathology under Professor Hamilton of Aberdeen, after which he went to the London School of Tropical Medicine.

In 1900 he submitted himself to the crucial experiment through which he will be remembered in the history of medicine¹. He exposed himself to the bites of infected *Anopheles* sent from Rome by Bignami and Bastianelli. The insects had previously sucked the blood of a patient suffering from mild tertian malaria. The result of the experiment was that Manson developed tertian fever, the parasites being found in his blood. The initial infection was followed by two recurrences, the first at Aberdeen during the summer of 1901, the second whilst he was out on a holiday shooting. The attacks were cut short through the administration of quinine. This experiment removed the doubts of those sceptics who remained unconvinced by the similar infection experiments of Grassi, Bignami and Bastianelli, on the ground that the Italian experiments were conducted in a country where malaria was indigenous.

¹ Manson, P. (29 Sept. 1900), *Experimental Demonstration of the Mosquito-Malaria Theory*. *Brit. Med. Journ.*, vol. II., pp. 949—951; *Lancet*, vol. II., pp. 923—925.



PATRICK THURBURN MANSON

Born at Amoy, China, 20 August, 1878.

Died at Christmas Island, Straits Settlements,
8 March, 1902.

Journal of Hygiene, Vol. II., 1902.

The esteem in which he was held by his fellow-students is clear from what one of them wrote of him¹: "Mature beyond his years in mind and physique, he always impressed those who worked with him with his whole-heartedness, his clearness of thought, his distaste for inaccuracy and bluff. Full of energy and resource, steadfast in purpose, he was as enthusiastic in the field of work as in that of sport; while there was such a bright vein of gaiety in his nature that life was to him a source of perpetual enjoyment, and with this joy of living he infected all his surroundings—all his associates." One who knew him best tells us, "He was a good student, but not a prize-taking student; remarkable for sturdy common sense and grasp rather than for brilliancy. He was a first class clinical man and very conscientious in diagnosis and in carrying out what he conceived to be his duty to his patient."

In January, 1902, young Manson left England to join Dr Herbert E. Durham at Christmas Island, Straits Settlements, their common object being to study beri-beri. Soon after his arrival at his destination he met with a gun accident which resulted fatally on the 8th of March. He was buried in Hong-Kong.

The general regret caused by the news of his death is mingled with feelings of the deepest sympathy for his family, more especially for his distinguished father, who would have had a worthy successor in the son whose career of promise has been cut off all too soon.

G. H. F. N.

¹ Obituary Notice in *Guy's Hospital Gazette*, vol. xvi., p. 139.