

before they reach a mental hospital at all, are generally suffering from what is really an advanced phase of the morbid process, and have already sustained some degree of irreparable brain-damage. Nevertheless it should be possible to arrest the progress of the disease at this stage, and to return many of the patients to their homes, to be useful members of the community. It may be hoped that under the new arrangements for hospital treatment of early cases of insanity, foreshadowed by recent public discussions, opportunities will be afforded for the investigation and treatment of cases of dementia præcox at a much earlier stage than that at which it is generally possible to deal with them at present.

It is hardly necessary for me to dwell upon the enormous saving in money that would result from even the moderate success of therapeutic immunisation in early cases of dementia præcox and other forms of acquired insanity. It may be said, however, that at the present moment there is nothing else in the scientific horizon that holds out any good hope of saving the country from the necessity of soon enlarging existing asylums and incurring greatly increased expenditure for custody. In my judgment, the knowledge of the relation of insanity to bacterial infection has now reached a point at which it would pay the asylums of this country to support laboratories for the bacteriological investigation and treatment of early cases of insanity. As regards the continuation of research work upon this subject in Scotland, it is for the Asylum Boards to decide whether they wish to have the benefit of the results of many years of breaking and tilling of new ground in this Laboratory, or whether they are going to allow these labours to come to an end just when they are promising an excellent harvest. Better facilities for research are urgently needed, and money is required for the extension of the investigation into other fields that must be investigated.

W. FORD ROBERTSON.

THE LABORATORY,
10, MORNINGSIDE TERRACE,
EDINBURGH;
February 20, 1922.

OBITUARY.

JAMES MIDDLEMASS, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin.

JAMES MIDDLEMASS was born in Edinburgh in 1862, and was educated at George Watson's College and at Edinburgh University. He first obtained the degrees of M.A. and B.Sc., being especially interested in chemistry; but later he took up medicine, and in 1888 he graduated M.B., C.M., with honours. He then studied at Strassburg, and on returning to Edinburgh was for a time Resident Physician in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Having taken his M.D. he was elected F.R.C.P.Edinburgh. In 1890 he was appointed Pathologist in the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, where in due course he occupied the post of Senior Assistant Physician.

In 1898 he became Medical Superintendent of the Sunderland Borough Asylum at Ryhope, a position which he retained till his death. In 1918 he was appointed lecturer on mental diseases at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne. In 1898 he married Miss Elkins, the sister of his predecessor at Ryhope. He had two children, a son and a daughter. Of his extremely happy married life this is not the place to speak.

He was somewhat run down when, early this year, he went to Scarborough for a golfing holiday. While staying there he was attacked with appendicitis, and, in spite of several operations, septic trouble developed. After a distressing illness, borne with extraordinary patience and fortitude, he died on May 2nd, 1922.

A memorial service, attended by representatives of the Borough Council and members of the profession, was held at Ryhope Church, but the actual interment was at Edinburgh, and at this a number of his personal friends were present, including several members of the Medico-Psychological Association.

In the early part of his professional life Dr. Middlemass contributed many papers to the medical journals. For thirteen years, dating from 1905, he reported the latest advances in psychological medicine for the *Edinburgh Medical Review*—a task for which he was peculiarly qualified by his wide reading and his knowledge of German. Two noteworthy articles, "Developmental General Paralysis," and

"Traumatism and General Paralysis," appeared in the *Journal of Mental Science*, to which he contributed a large number of reviews.

In association with the late Sir Thomas Clouston and with Dr. Ford Robertson, he wrote a series of articles on pathology in relation to mental disease. Another paper of great value, on "Night-Nursing in Asylums," was written in conjunction with Dr. Elkins. In this it was clearly demonstrated that noise, turbulence and degraded habits could almost be abolished during the night in a mental hospital if the nursing were effectively organised. The advantages of dormitories over single rooms were also explained. The writer of the present record has had opportunities of seeing the practical result of the methods advocated at the Sunderland Asylum; and the quiet and good order which prevailed in all the wards during the night were most remarkable.

Dr. Middlemass was an active member of the Medico-Psychological Association, attending the general and branch meetings with regularity, and often contributing papers. He was particularly interested in the training of nurses, and wrote a section for the old edition of the Handbook for those engaged in mental nursing. He was, moreover, a hard-working member of the Committee appointed to revise this handbook. To state the authorship of the various sections is not customary, but his contributions, which dealt chiefly with practical nursing, were of the utmost value. The sincerity and enthusiasm of the writer are manifest throughout. It is pleasant to think that his words will influence the profession of nursing for many generations, since whatever changes take place, the high ideals and principles which he enunciated are too fundamental to require revision.

Dr. Hubert Bond, the President of the Association, in referring to the loss which it had sustained, stated that at an early date Dr. Middlemass would have been asked to accept the Presidency. But this was not to be!

Of all his other activities it is impossible to speak in detail. He was held in great regard in Sunderland, being twice President of the Sunderland Branch of the British Medical Association. His expert knowledge and practice in psychiatry by no means cut him off from the general body of the medical profession; while his independent position made his services invaluable during the controversies connected with the introduction of the panel practice and with military service. As chairman of the War Committee he discharged a delicate and heavy task with marked success.

James Middlemass was tall and spare, and at first sight he looked delicate; but in reality he possessed great endurance. He was an adept at games of all kinds, excelling at golf, cricket, tennis, curling, billiards, and whatever he took in hand. "It was always a pleasure to play with him," writes one friend; "he possessed the true sportsman's instinct, and 'played the game' whether he won or lost."

He loved the country and the open air, and long expeditions on foot. It was a privilege to spend a holiday with so interesting a companion. In 1908 the present writer accompanied him to Berlin, and on our return journey we visited the theatre at Brunswick. There Middlemass sat next to a lady, who joined in our conversation when she heard us speaking English. After a time she said suddenly:

"I cannot understand why you English are so blind! You will not heed warnings, and you refuse to listen to Lord Roberts."

It transpired that she was the wife of a German officer. Middlemass was deeply impressed, for he was a regular reader of the *Spectator*, which at that time had published articles about Germans which many of us thought unfair and injurious. The year 1914 showed that the chance conversation was prophetic!

If success may be measured by personal influence for good, James Middlemass achieved great success. All who knew him—old fellow-students, colleagues, pupils, friends, the members of his Committee and of the hospital staff, speak with touching and striking uniformity of his integrity, unselfishness and sound judgment. We realise keenly how much we shall miss him, how we relied upon his judgment, and how readily he spent himself for others.

He came of a musical family, and he played the 'cello well. By his fellow students he was regarded with admiration, now and then tinged by envy, because he did his work with such apparent ease, seemed able to choose the right course of action so surely, and was so quiet, imperturbable and trustworthy. As one of his old companions writes: "We might do well and aim high (I do not mean in the worldly sense); he did better and aimed higher. He was the disciplined servant of his ideals."

One old friend, himself a distinguished man, who knew James Middlemass from his boyhood, writes: "There is not a single recollection of him I wish to blot out. He was one of the best men I ever knew. . . . He was absolutely unassuming, true to the heart's core, strong with the strength that goes hand in hand with gentleness and courtesy and love. A genuine son of consolation, he laid his great gifts of intellect and skill at the door of those who needed them sorely."

Another, now a University professor, writes: "He certainly possessed all-round powers, and I feel he would have taken an eminent place in almost any branch of the profession. I may add that he was of a gentle and kindly nature, unselfish and absolutely upright in his dealings with his fellows, and always ready to help anyone. I cannot recall anything spoken or done by him with a taint of the unworthy."

"A peace-maker, and one who never undertook to do a thing without doing it," writes one friend; while another says, "His ability had nothing theatrical about it."

James Middlemass certainly never sought the limelight. Perhaps, indeed, he was too reticent, quiet and unassuming to win all the distinctions to which his achievements entitled him. But his influence was profound, and it is a cause for thankfulness that he turned his attention to psychological medicine, since he was uniquely fitted to help people in mental distress.

Though he rarely discussed religion, he was a man of deep religious convictions, and all who knew him will realise the aptness of words quoted by the Chairman of his Committee, Mr. Councillor Taylor, who wrote, "What nobler epitaph can any man have than this, 'After he had served his own generation faithfully, by the will of God, he fell on sleep.'"

It seems fitting to conclude this brief record of our friend by a sonnet written by his sister:

REMEMBRANCE.

James Middlemass, M.D.

Thanks for the rain upon the thirsty ground,
 Thanks too for tears that ease the burdened heart;
 But thanks supreme for memories that dart
 Their shaft-like glory through the grief around.
 Computing these, what are the riches found?
 Fair chronicles of one who played his part,
 As friend and true physician, with an art
 In wise and patient, gentle ways that bound
 To him the hearts of many in strong faith
 And love and leal devotion. Can such power,
 Of origin divine, be held of death
 And wither in the dust like any flower?
 Nay, 'tis alive—immortal aftermath—
 To bless us when we reach death's golden hour.

BEDFORD PIERCE.

May, 1922.

MARRIOTT LOGAN ROWAN, M.D., R.U.I.

We regret to announce the death, on August 6th, at St. Anne's-on-Sea, of Dr. Rowan, who since 1915 has filled the post of Medical Superintendent of the Derby County Mental Hospital. He was a native of Carrickfergus, co. Antrim, being born there in 1871, and received his medical education at Queen's College, Belfast. He was a graduate of the Royal University of Ireland, taking his medical degrees M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., in 1900 after a distinguished arts career. He received the degree of M.D. in 1903 and took up psychiatry in 1904, when he was appointed an assistant medical officer at the same hospital of which he subsequently became the medical chief. His health had been failing for some time but his end came quite suddenly, much to the distress of his many friends and relatives. His loss was keenly felt at his hospital, where he had endeared himself to both staff and patients. He leaves a widow and two young children, to whom we extend our sincere condolence.