

OBITUARY.

ROBERT SMITH, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.

Dr. Smith died on May 28th, in his seventy-eighth year, somewhat unexpectedly, at the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. Robert Stuart, Hallgarth House, Durham. It was indeed fitting that he should have passed in the county in whose service he had spent so many years. He was a remarkable man, unfortunately known by too few of our Associates, and therefore not fully appreciated by those who were not brought into actual contact with his notable personality. We who mourn his loss, even at his advanced age, and knowing that he had done a noble and long day's work, recall memories of his life for which we are grateful, and endeavour to set forth some record of a worthy nature in the pages of the Journal.

Dr. Smith was the fifth and youngest son of the late Rev. Robert Smith, D.D., senior minister of St. Machar's Cathedral, old Aberdeen, and of his wife, Mary, daughter of Colonel Molison, Brechin. His education was gained in the classic surroundings into which he was born—at the Grammar School and King's College, where he took his degree of M.D. in 1858. Previously, in 1854, he had become M.B. and L.R.C.S.E., and for a time acted as assistant to Dr. Fyfe, Professor of Chemistry. He was fortunate in having been selected to act as assistant medical officer by Dr. W. A. F. Browne, of the Dumfries Royal Asylum, who remained his life-long friend.

After travelling in Canada he was appointed to the post he so long held as Medical Superintendent of the Durham County Asylum, although that institution was not then ready for occupation. The patients were boarded at a private asylum at Bensham, Gateshead, and afterwards at the Bath Lane Asylum, Newcastle. In April, 1858, however, the Durham County Asylum was opened, with accommodation for 400 patients, at Sedgefield, and it gradually increased in size until it held 1600 in 1899, when Dr. Smith felt that the time had come for him to retire.

Under his fostering care, watchful over every detail of development, it became an important institution, throughout which the welfare, the comfort, and the happiness of his patients were Dr. Smith's constant concern. Nothing was left to chance, everything was brought under his personal notice by his active staff, and his rapid decisions kept the routine of life on the right lines. His profound knowledge and his skilful use of it made him a chief who commanded respect, while his kindly, generous nature endeared him to all.

Like his intimate friend, the late Dr. Howden, of the Montrose Royal Asylum, Dr. Smith had a deep sense of the importance of interesting the insane in occupations and amusements; he led them into the way of regarding life from the bright and cheerful side. It is rather the fashion to deride these practical philanthropic duties of asylum management, to regard with condescension the man who labours for the happiness and comfort of his patients, to speak apologetically for all that has gone to make the reputation of English asylums as homes of healing directed with beneficent zeal. We are apt to incline to ultra-scientific absorption, and decline to occupy ourselves with the incessant cares of administration in detail, but we must always remember that our Association was established and is maintained, not only for the cultivation of science in relation to mental disorder, but also for the promotion of improvements in administration. When we think of the turbulent, difficult patients who so often require treatment in the Durham County Asylum, and his repeated statement that he never found seclusion necessary, and his adroit management of men and women, we find it hard to mention anyone who did more for the humane and enlightened treatment of those committed to his care. And, apart from his profound medical knowledge and wide experience, Dr. Smith was gifted in no small degree with that scientific competence which rendered him capable in mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, and histology. These were his interests and avocations in the time which he could spare from the duties of his professional life, which were rigidly fulfilled. Dr. Smith's first concern was always the organisation of relief for the alleviation of his patients, and his range of action was wide. Apart from the ordinary labours of the day, he organised and fostered healthful outdoor sports and indoor recreations. His musical capacity was productive of concerts and entertainments of notable excellence, and the chapel services were memorable in the use of music and singing. Dr. Smith was fortunate

in securing a fine organ and capable choir, and in interesting his people in the chapel and all it stood for.

Dr. Smith's patients loved him, and one of his friends truly said, "he was sturdy in wisdom, high-minded and unselfish, and very able; one can give no higher praise, and this he deserved." He was one of the very best of men, and only those who were closely associated with him officially or as assistants are able to fully appreciate his worth; amongst the latter (and the list is a long one) may be mentioned the late Drs. Aitken (Inverness), J. A. Campbell (Carlisle), John A. Wallis (Commissioner in Lunacy), Colin McIvor Campbell (Perth), Drs. John Merson (Hull), Robert L. Rutherford (Exeter), Edmund Rowe (Ipswich), J. T. Callcott (Newcastle-on-Tyne), and John W. Geddes (Middlesborough). Sir Patrick Manson and Colonel Kenneth McLeod, I.M.S., were also assistants with Dr. Smith for several years in their early career.

A link which bound Dr. Smith to Aberdeen, where his sisters still live, was his marriage with a daughter of the late Rev. Principal Campbell, of the University. His wife's recent death told heavily upon Dr. Smith's health. Of a family of five sons and four daughters, all survive with the exception of the eldest son, who was in the medical profession, and died several years ago. Other three sons also entered the medical profession. One is a doctor at Tunbridge Wells, a second in Norwich, and a third in the Indian Medical Service. The fourth surviving son is a lawyer in New Zealand. Of the four daughters three are married, and it was with one of them that Dr. Smith went to reside recently, before his fatal illness.

HENRY JOHN MANNING, B.A.Lond., M.R.C.S.

By the death of Dr. Manning, the well-known Superintendent and Licensee of Laverstoke House, the Association loses one of its elder members, who has long held the friendship and esteem of a wide circle.

Born in 1835, and educated at University College School, he graduated in arts at the London University, and subsequently studied medicine at University College, taking his M.R.C.S. in 1860.

After several voyages to Australia in a medical capacity, he joined Dr. Bushman at Laverstoke House in 1862, and became medical superintendent on the death of Dr. Stanley Haynes in 1870.

Dr. Manning was a contributor to this and other medical journals, but especially devoted himself to the work of the British Medical Association, becoming Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Southern Branch. He also took an active part in the management of the Salisbury Infirmary.

Dr. Manning preserved his literary activities throughout his life, and was distinguished by the thoroughness of his execution of duties, both professional and public. He obtained and held the confidence of his patients as well as of his numerous *confrères*, to whom he extended a genial and liberal hospitality.

Dr. Manning married the elder daughter of the late proprietor of Laverstoke House, Mr. Joseph Haynes, J.P., who, with two daughters, survive to mourn his loss.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE CARE OF THE INSANE.

THE Fourth International Congress, which will meet from October 3rd to the 7th, 1910, in Berlin, at the "Abgeordnetenhaus" (Prussian House of Parliament), will, like the previous congresses, not only deal with questions regarding the treatment and accommodation of patients suffering from mental derangement, but will also promote investigations and arrangements conducive to the protection of the general mental health in every respect.

The Congress hopes to secure the interest not only of physicians, but also of municipal officials, lawyers, and schoolmasters. It will investigate the injuries caused to the mind by social and hygienic abuses, will endeavour to explain the origin of mental diseases from infancy, and point out the best possible methods for the prevention of mental derangements. It proposes to promote the means of com-