

JOHN CARSWELL, F.R.F.P.S.GLAS., L.R.C.P.ED.,

Late Medical Commissioner, General Board of Control, Scotland.

DR. JOHN CARSWELL, who retired from the General Board of Control for Scotland at the age-limit of 65 on June 18, 1921, died at Cambridge on June 20, 1931.

He was one who continuously and courageously stood four square for the progress of psychological medicine. Though never robust, he had reached the ripe age of 75. Dr. Carswell was born in Glasgow and studied medicine there, qualifying in 1877. It was fortunate for the progress of psychological medicine that he became Resident Medical Officer at Woodilee Mental Hospital, Lenzie, then the most modern institution of its kind in existence, under the superintendence of Dr. James Rutherford, a pioneer in the humane and modern treatment of the insane. These surroundings shaped Dr. Carswell's future career.

Woodilee was the first institution to be built without airing-courts; it had associated with it a large amount of land, and its farm was a model of what farms should be.

Open-air life, the absence of locked doors, and carefully selected occupations for the patients were prominent features of Dr. Rutherford's management. With a knowledge of the actual conditions obtaining there, there is no wonder that Dr. Carswell was inspired to make the study of mental disease his life-work.

At the time the importance of abnormalities of mind was recognized only by a select few of the medical profession, and these mostly associated with mental institutions. There was no special provision, even in the large cities, for dealing with temporary or early cases of mental disease, and it was only when the patient's mental condition became, as it were, obvious to the man in the street that anything practical could be done.

Dr. Carswell was appointed a Medical Officer of the Barony Parish, and later when the Barony and City were amalgamated under the Glasgow Parish Council, the work he had done was considered so effective that he was appointed to take sole charge of the certification of all patients in this large parish with a population of over 600,000. From the first his duties brought him in

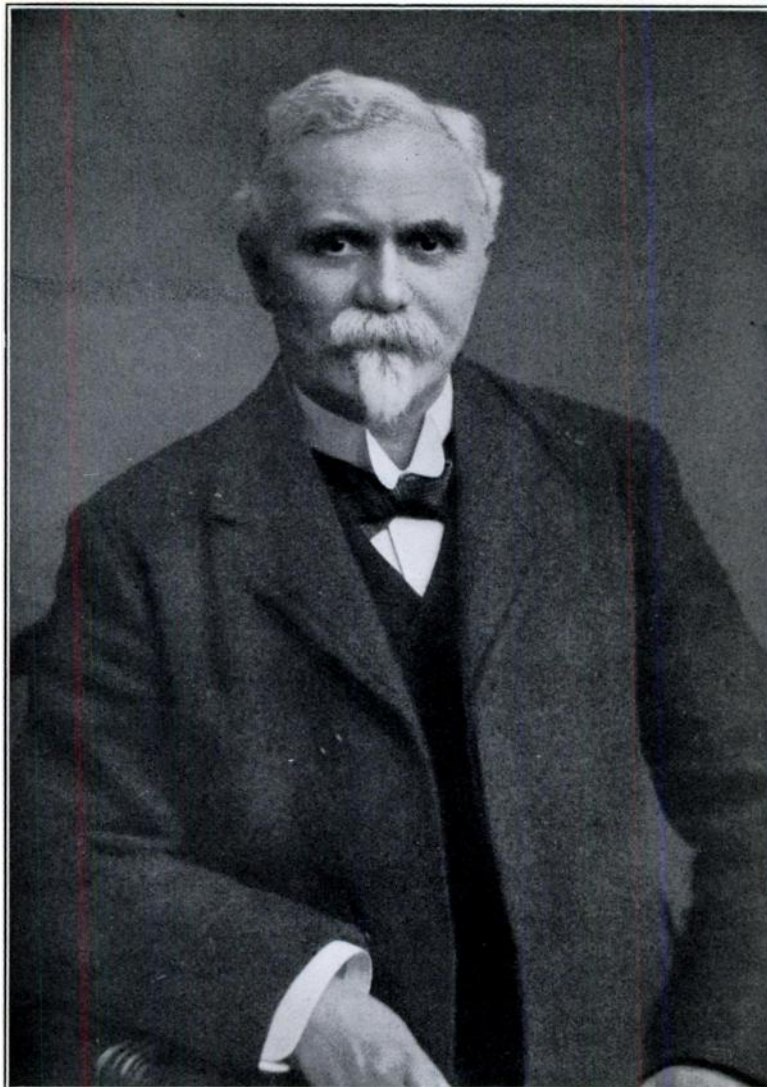


Photo Rannan.

JOHN CARSWELL, F.R.F.P.S.G., J.P.

Born June 18, 1856.

Died June 20, 1931.

Ordinary Member, 1891.

Maudsley Lecturer, 1924.