

## LIBRARY OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Library is open daily for reading and for the purpose of borrowing books. Books may also be borrowed by post provided that at the time of application three-pence in stamps is forwarded to defray the cost of postage. Arrangements have been made with Mr. H. K. Lewis to enable the Association to obtain books from the lending library of that firm should any desired book not be in the Association's Library.

The Library subscribes to the following journals:

*Journal of Abnormal Psychology.*  
*Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases.*  
*American Journal of Insanity.*  
*Journal de Psychologie Normale et Pathologique.*  
*Zeitschrift für die gesamte Neurologie und Psychiatrie.*  
*Psychoanalytic Review.*  
*Review of Neurology and Psychiatry.*

The following books have recently been added to the Library:

*Psychoanalysis.*—Brill.  
*Outlines of Psychiatry.*—W. A. White.  
*Dementia Præcox.*—Meyer and Jelliffe.  
*Three Contributions to Sexual Theory.*—Freud. (Translation by Brill.)  
*Histological Studies on the Localisation of Cerebral Function.*—Campbell.  
*The Integrative Action of the Nervous System.*—Sherrington.  
*The Psycho-Pathology of Everyday Life.*—Freud. (Translation by Brill.)  
*Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland.*

Members are reminded that they are entitled to receive any of the journals by post in accordance with the Library Committee's scheme of distribution. Members wishing to avail themselves of this scheme should communicate with the Secretary, specifying the journal or journals which they require.

The Secretary would be glad to receive from members suggestions as to books suitable for addition to the Library.

Applications for books should be addressed to the Resident Librarian, Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Other communications should be addressed to under-mentioned at Long Grove Asylum, Epsom, Surrey.

EDWARD MAPOTHER,  
 Hon. Sec. Library Committee.

## OBITUARY.

## DR. HAROLD BAILEY SHAW.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr. H. B. Shaw, who was for many years Medical Superintendent of the Isle of Wight Co. Asylum, and a respected member of the Association since 1891.

The deceased gentleman was the son of the late Dr. William Shaw, of Hampstead, London. He was educated at Epsom and Sidney College, Cambridge. He graduated in arts at Cambridge, taking First Class Honours in the Natural Science Tripos of 1880. He became M.B., B.C. in 1884, and D.P.H. in 1890, at the same University.

His first years were devoted to physiology, physics, and organic chemistry at Charing Cross Hospital School. He was then Medical Officer, Smallpox Camp, Darent, and Resident Clinical Assistant at Winson Green Asylum, Birmingham. For two years he was Assistant Medical Officer at Gloucester Co. Asylum, leaving there for the Hampshire Co. Asylum, where he remained for six years as senior.

When the Isle of Wight Asylum was opened he became its first medical superintendent, which position he occupied for eighteen years—until his death.

On the last day of a fortnight's holiday he was taking at Bournemouth he had an attack of cerebral hæmorrhage, from which he succumbed within a few hours on September 28th, 1914.

He was fifty-six years of age and was entitled to take his pension from last November. He was buried at Gatcombe Church near the Asylum on October 2nd, 1914.

## DR. SIDNEY NELSON CROWTHER.

We regret to report the death of Sidney Nelson Crowther, Senior Assistant and Superintendent-Elect of the Surrey County Asylum, Netherne, killed in action whilst carrying despatches near Armentières on October 18th. Dr. Crowther received his medical education at the Westminster Hospital, becoming M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1903. He took up asylum work at Brookwood, and on the completion of the new asylum at Netherne he was transferred there as Senior Assistant Medical Officer.

He was a brave gentleman, and a thorough sportsman in the best sense of the word, and possessed a strong and charming personality which endeared him to all who knew him.

He served in the South African War as dresser, and at the outbreak of the present campaign sought his Committee's sanction to volunteer again, this time as a motor despatch rider. The spirit of patriotism prompted this, notwithstanding the fact that he had just been appointed successor to the retiring Superintendent, whom he persuaded to continue in office until his return from service in H.M. Forces.

He will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends, especially those at Netherne, where his popularity amongst patients and staff was unbounded.

On November 11th, a memorial service was held at the Asylum Chapel, Netherne. The Rev. F. H. Roberts, the Asylum Chaplain, officiated, together with the Rev. E. Bingham. The service was widely attended. The official account of Dr. Crowther's death is as follows:

"Information supplied by Officer Commanding Second Signal Troop as to death of S. N. Crowther.

"The deceased was killed by shell fire whilst taking a despatch at Le Piniert, east of Armentières. He was buried in a garden of a small cottage in the above-named place, and at the first opportunity it is intended to place a cross over his grave, bearing the inscription: 'In loving memory of Corporal Crowther, Royal Engineer rs. Died 18th October, 1914. R.I.P.'"

## DR. ROBERT REID ALEXANDER.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death, suddenly from heart disease, of Dr. Alexander, late of Hanwell Asylum, on November 14th, 1914. The deceased gentleman was born in Aberdeen, and received his medical education at the Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1869, taking his M.D. in 1878.

His asylum career commenced at the Aberdeen Royal Asylum, where he was an Assistant Medical Officer, and from whence he occupied a similar position at the Bucks County Asylum. In 1873 he joined the medical staff of the Middlesex County Asylum, Hanwell. From the position of Assistant Medical Officer he became, in 1888, Medical Superintendent of the Male Department, and finally, on the abolition of the dual control at the end of 1891, sole Medical Superintendent. He was transferred to the London County service upon the London County Council taking over Hanwell Asylum in April, 1889. He retired in 1905, after thirty-two years' service, and was granted by the Asylums Committee a maximum retiring allowance.

His disposition was of the kindest and most sympathetic imaginable, and he was always eager to befriend the friendless and help those in need. He was a broad-minded man, who never shirked his responsibility, and was courageous to a degree.

His memory for faces and names was remarkable, and he always had a personal knowledge of every patient resident, by all of whom he was held in high respect and affection. He was an indefatigable worker—toiled early and late, and seemed to be able to do almost without sleep.

He was a good French scholar, and later, after retirement, Esperanto became an all absorbing pursuit which he could speak fluently, and as a labour of love translated into that language part of the New Testament. He also interested himself in Braille work for the blind.

At Hanwell, an institution teeming with great traditions and memories of the past, he was actively associated with most of the stages of its evolution to its present position of eminence.

His passing away will call to the minds of his numerous past colleagues and friends many treasured recollections, and in the halls and courts of old Hanwell, where his life was spent unselfishly and ungrudgingly in the service of others, the memory of his genial and commanding presence and strong individuality will never fade.

At the funeral, which took place quietly on November 18th at Golders Green Crematorium, the London County Asylums Committee was represented by its clerk, Mr. H. F. Keene, and Hanwell Asylum by Dr. Daniel, Mr. Martin, engineer, and others.

“Night brings out stars as sorrows show us truth.”

#### DR. EDWARD CHARLES SPITZKA.

By the death of Dr. Edward Charles Spitzka, medical science has lost one of its most brilliant votaries, and the New York Neurological Society one of its oldest and most productive members.

He was born in New York City on November 10th, 1852. His father, a man of broad attainments and large reading, was early involved in the Revolution in Germany in 1848, whose cause he actively espoused, and on account of which he emigrated to America. Shortly after his arrival with his wife, the son was born. The parents sent their boy to the New York public schools, No. 35, whose “principal” was the well-known Thomas Hunter.

The son made rapid strides in his studies, and at a very early age entered the College of the City of New York. He soon evinced a definite preference for the natural sciences, and became especially interested in the subjects of biology, geology, and palæontology. These studies so fascinated him that he determined to take up the study of medicine, and became a student in the medical department of the University of the City of New York. Even while pursuing his medical studies he kept up his reading in the subjects previously mentioned.

After his graduation from medical school he proceeded to Germany, and settled in Leipsic. There he came under the influence of Wagner, von Coccius, His, Wunderlich, and Thiersch. After leaving Leipsic, he went to Vienna, where he met the man who had the greatest influence in determining his future career, namely, Meynert, under whom he accumulated a wealth of anatomical, physiological, and pathological knowledge which became the foundation of the most of his subsequent claims to fame. In some respects Spitzka resembled his great teacher and master, Meynert, especially in the possession of a vast fund of general information, and particularly in a thorough acquaintance with the facts of comparative anatomy. While in Vienna he also became interested in the subject of embryology, human and comparative, whose study he followed under Professor Schenk, who appointed him, with the consent of the authorities of the university, an assistant to the chair of embryology. Spitzka remained abroad altogether three years, after which he returned to the city of his birth.

Shortly after his return in 1876, he began the collection of whatever neurologic pathologic and anatomical material he could obtain, chiefly from the public and the private asylums of the city and its environs, and commenced his anatomical, neurological, and psychiatric investigations.

His was a dominating, overpowering personality. Endowed by nature with an unusual capacity for work, gifted with the most extraordinary powers of analysis, possessing a memory so retentive that it seemed almost supernatural, and withal, a fluency of thought and facility of speech, he was equipped with advantages whose like is seldom possessed by any single individual. To these attributes was brought an exceptionally creative and vivid imagination, which suggested and initiated a great deal of the work of his active mind. His facility in writing even eclipsed the ease and fluency of his speech.

He was a seeker after truth, and content with investigations only after they had satisfied all of the requirements of established facts, logic, and pure reason.

He was interested in many fields of human thought and knowledge, and generously contributed to both. Nobody except those who had been intimate with him could realise the extent and breadth of this knowledge. Possessing the use of many languages, thoroughly acquainted with history, knowing the literature of the people whose language he spoke, expert in all the branches of biological

science, he was easily one of the most versatile members of the medical profession.

This versatility shows itself in his writings, which embrace the departments of history, biology, palæontology, criminology, forensic medicine, and neurology, including neuro-anatomy, neuro-physiology, neuro-pathology, and psychiatry.

His work will be judged by medical men chiefly on account of his contributions to the last-mentioned subjects. These contributions to medical sciences were very numerous, many containing original discoveries and new view-points. His published writings in these subjects alone numbered over two hundred. These embody many entirely new discoveries and original points of view that made the sciences of neurology and psychiatry distinctly the gainer.

In neuro-anatomy, his name will be perpetuated by his discoveries, and it will live as long as the science. He was also the first to introduce into America an adequate conception of the scope of a true psychiatric science. Up to that time the study of mental disease in this country was based on an empirical foundation for the most part; the pathological basis of the subject was but imperfectly known or even studied in general. It was to his influence that the more serious study of the subject was taken up. It did not take long before his reputation became a national one, due in some measure to the fact that the trial of the assassin of President Garfield was then imminent. There was an almost universal cry for the sacrifice of the assassin, Guiteau. Spitzka, with a courage which was the result of a nature which could not tolerate falsehood, and convinced of the fact that the murder was the work of an insane man, did not hesitate to give his testimony to that effect. This event in his early life—he was at that time only twenty-nine years old—is mentioned, because it indicates the most dominant characteristic in his organisation, viz., the desire for truth, no matter what the consequences. One can imagine the courage he possessed, when one becomes acquainted with the fact that his life was threatened, that he received letters warning him that if he gave testimony to the effect that Guiteau was insane his own life would be sacrificed.

The great influence which he exercised in the field of psychiatry was best shown in his book, a *Manual of Insanity*, which went through two editions. The book embodied the study of all the large amount of pathological material which he had collected. Part of this had been previously used by him in the preparation of an essay, which had earned for him the W. and S. Tuke Prize, given through the British Medico-Psychological Association, and which had been open to international competition. This essay was entitled "The Somatic Ætiology of Insanity."—(Abstract from an appreciation by Dr. N. E. Brill before the New York Neurological Society, April 7th, 1914, *Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, August, 1914).

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#### NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

##### DATES OF EXAMINATIONS.

*Certificate in Psychological Medicine and Gaskell Prize.*—July, 1915.  
*Nursing Certificate.*

Preliminary examination . . . . Monday, May 3rd.  
Final examination . . . . Monday, May 10th.

Schedules for the Nursing Certificate examinations can be obtained from the Registrar and must be returned to him duly completed *not less than four weeks* prior to the date of examination.

*Essays for the Bronze Medal* should reach the Registrar on or before June 14th.

Papers for competition for Divisional Prizes should reach the Registrar on or before June 1st.

Full particulars of all examinations can be obtained from the Registrar, Dr. Alfred Miller, Hatton Asylum, Warwick.

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#### NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

Quarterly Meeting, May 18th, 1915, London.

*South-Eastern Division.*—April 29th, 1915, Newlands House.