

in a philosophical spirit, recognise that other people had different dispositions and habits, not to be lightly thrown off. This trait in his character came out noticeably in a trip to Ireland on which the writer and another friend accompanied him a few years ago. Bad weather sometimes interfered with pleasure, and there were delays and mistakes which reminded us that we were not among the business-like Anglo-Saxons. These latter troubles he took, not merely with composure, but on some occasions it seemed with glee, as if they were the troubles of other people represented for his amusement upon the stage. His ability to derive amusement from small things was indeed a notable feature in his character.

Dr. Howden did not obtrude his scientific acquirements, but was glad to co-operate with those of a kindred spirit. For many years he was Vice-President of the Montrose Natural History and Antiquarian Society. In 1888 he was President of the Section of Psychology at the Glasgow meeting of the British Medical Association.

Dr. Howden constructed an ingenious and valuable form of index for the registrations of the lesions recorded in pathological records or case-books of hospitals and asylums, and made various contributions to medical literature, among which was an interesting paper on The Religious Sentiment in Epileptics and an important statement as to Granular Degeneration of the Nerve-cell in Insanity.

A paralytic stroke, some three years ago, partially disabled him and deprived him of the power of writing. To this loss he was by no means indifferent, but he bore it calmly. In the beginning of this year increasing infirmities induced him to send in his resignation. With regret at the unavoidable necessity and with expressions of heartfelt esteem the resignation was accepted, but it was arranged that Dr. Howden should continue his connection with the asylum as salaried Psychological Consultant. Dr. Howden had been married for thirty years, but left no children.

Though the Royal Asylum of Montrose gives every promise of continuing its honourable and useful career, yet there are those who feel that the loss of the large strong soul that is gone leaves in their existence a dreary blank, who feel that the world is perceptibly smaller.

We would add to the foregoing reminiscences of Dr. Howden's career of honest and strenuous endeavour our appreciation of his kindly good sense. He was the oldest asylum physician in Scotland at the time of his death, and with him passed away a shrewd, cautious Scot, whose contributions to scientific work were always worthy of close study, whose friendship, esteem, and counsel were highly prized.—Ed.

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#### WILLIAM GURSLAVE MARSHALL.

By a somewhat remarkable coincidence, two former Medical Superintendents of this asylum—colleagues during twenty years—surviving fifteen years more—died within one week of each other. Mr. William Gurslave Marshall, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., succeeded Dr. Davey, the first Superintendent of the Female Department, in 1852. The building (of which the foundation-stone was laid by Prince Albert in 1851) had been opened about a year. Mr. Marshall had previously been Resident Medical Officer of the Northampton Borough Asylum.

He continued in the active discharge of his duties at Colney Hatch for thirty-eight years. In 1868 he had a nearly fatal attack of illness, the result of an accident. But until his health failed, shortly before his departure in 1890, it was equal to the heavy demands upon his strength and energy.

The entries of numerous details in the books of his department were, it is believed, largely made, day by day, by his own hand. The maxim, *Qui facit per alium facit per se*, did not altogether find acceptance with him. For many years it was his practice to visit all the female wards twice daily. On his rounds words in profusion would assail his ear, would claim attention, and often receive some reply.

Often fatigued, sometimes overdone, yet never complaining, he went faithfully on his way, year in year out. His chief refreshment was found, perhaps, in books. *Blackwood* and *The Athenæum* were favourite magazines. The society of familiar friends and occasional public entertainments (sharing the pleasure with others) were diversions furnishing some "variegation of existence." Mr. Marshall had a strong attachment to his kinfolk, and as many passed away in his lifetime a sense of increasing loneliness no doubt saddened his declining years.

Placidity of temperament was one of his marked characteristics. He maintained unruffled demeanour in often disturbing circumstances. A patient's provoking words would receive no rejoinder, or a quiet reply, accompanied perhaps with a little playful banter. The expression of his countenance, which was somewhat immobile, was an index to the composure of (to use a favourite phrase of his) his "mental condition." Yet an unemotional manner by no means denoted want of sympathy. The writer of these lines has personal reasons for gratitude to Mr. Marshall for his kindly and patient interest on more than one occasion of anxiety.

*Stare super antiquas vias* was perhaps a motto too inflexibly observed by the subject of this imperfect notice. But *Suum cuique*. To every man his gift. And Mr. Marshall was rather a conscientious and thorough performer of prescribed duties than either an originator or theorist. He left no detail of work unattended to. No doubt he might have economised his arduous labours, lessening his own fatigue. But he derived satisfaction from the knowledge that each day's allotted work had not only been gone through, but also accurately recorded. The writer recalls an incident of Mr. Marshall at the commencement of a dangerous and well-nigh fatal illness sitting up in bed with official books open before him.

He served during thirty-seven years under successive committees of the Middlesex magistrates and of the London County Council, to whom he rendered loyal allegiance. On the retirement of the former, in 1889, though he might have claimed honourable release from an unusually prolonged period of official work, yet, considerably judging that his continuance awhile in office might be an assistance to the new governing body, he deferred his resignation until failure in health compelled him to tender it.

Mr. Marshall's personal acquaintance with his patients and his knowledge of their circumstances was another characteristic of his long administration, which came to an end in 1890. Now he himself has passed away, full of years, and another link with the older school of Medical Superintendents and practitioners has been severed.

H. H.

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EDGAR SHEPPARD, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.C.L.

With the death of Dr. Edgar Sheppard one more of the past generation of Medical Superintendents has disappeared—a group that contained many men of great ability and courage, who at a somewhat critical period in asylum management so directed and established procedure that their successors have inherited the good results of their work in a way that they perhaps scarcely appreciate.

At that time the position of a Medical Superintendent was an uncertain one; he was not the recognised head of the establishment in the way that he now is, and it is to a large extent due to the efforts of the men we are