

admirable manner. And if anybody feels any doubt on that point, I recommend him before he opens his mouth on the subject to do as I did, and go and see for himself."

The incident was also commented on in *The Hospital* of March 4th, 1916, as follows:

"THE SPRINGFIELD MILITARY HOSPITAL.

"The Editor of *Truth* recently gave publicity to an accusation of broken pledges directed against the Director-General of the Army Medical Service (Sir A. Keogh) in connection with the arrangements for 'nerve-shocked' soldiers. Having availed himself of an invitation to inspect on the spot the Springfield Military Hospital, Wandsworth (around which the contention seems to have arisen), he very emphatically refutes the whole of the criticism which he formerly printed, and incidentally testifies to the efficiency of the Springfield Hospital in a manner which must be highly gratifying to the Commandant, Major Worth, who is also Superintendent of the neighbouring Wandsworth Asylum, under the Middlesex County Council. An enthusiastic description is given of the hospital buildings themselves, and of the extensive grounds in which they stand; while the system of treatment as Major Worth administers it is also spoken of in the very highest terms of praise. Altogether both the Springfield Hospital and the Army Medical Department get a very excellent testimonial over the incident, which may be regarded as most satisfactorily closed."

We must say that it is a matter for surprise that at a meeting held more than a year after the occurrence of an incident which received such publicity at the time, there was apparently no one in the audience acquainted with the facts, and that not the slightest attempt appears to have been made to refute an absolutely groundless *canard*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WAR EMERGENCY FUND OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

*To the Editors of the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.*

SIR,—The time has come to make a further appeal for the War Emergency Fund.

This Fund was instituted last year to afford assistance to members of our profession who, in consequence of having joined the Army Medical Service, find themselves in temporary difficulties.

Many medical men, when called up, had to leave on very short notice, without time to make adequate provision for the continuance and maintenance of their practices during their absence. As a result they have had to face a severe fall in income even when supplemented by Army pay; while many expenses, such as rent, insurance, taxes, family maintenance, and education, could not be reduced. Although in a year or two after their return it may be hoped those affected will recover their position, still, in the interval help is, and will be, necessary, and it is to meet these needs that the War Emergency Fund was established.

To be effective the grants must be made on a liberal scale, and the fund from which they are to be drawn must be a large one. The sum obtained last year was about £4,000. This is quite inadequate, as at least £25,000 will be required if even a small proportion of those requiring assistance is to be helped. From the wealthier members of the medical profession, it is hoped, substantial sums will be received, but everyone should feel it a duty which he owes to his less prosperous colleagues to give the most liberal donation he can afford.

At the same time the appeal is not, and ought not to be, restricted to the medical profession. The public, too, may be rightly called upon to bear its share, and to show, by liberal contributions, its appreciation of the special services so freely rendered by the medical profession to the country.

The War Emergency Fund is a special department of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. It is kept separate and distinct from the ordinary operations of the general fund, and is under the management of a committee specially appointed for the purpose.

Communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, War Emergency Fund, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1, to whom cheques should be made payable.

We are, etc.,

SAMUEL WEST,

*President.*

CHARTERS J. SYMONDS, Colonel A.M.S.,

*Honorary Treasurer.*

G. NEWTON PITT, Major R.A.M.C.(T.),

*Honorary Secretary.*

London, W. 1,

June 8th.

*Cases of Special Distress caused by the War which the Committee have Helped.*

A lieutenant in the R.A.M.C., who had only been in practice a few years, volunteered for service, and was killed in action a few days later. He left a widow, with two children, aged 3½ and 1 year, without means except the War Office pension. The Fund voted £25 for her immediate necessities, and the Officers' Families Fund gave further help.

A captain in the Territorials was called out, and had to leave his practice in the hands of a *locum*, who proved a failure. There were seven children, aged 2 to 14. Financial difficulties arose, and payment of the school fees became impossible. Between the Fund and Guild, and the Officers' Families Fund, the necessary fees were raised, and sorely needed clothing provided.

A captain in the Territorials, who was called out when the Army mobilised, and had to leave his practice worth £800 at a day's notice, could not pay the fees for his son's education, who was in his last year at school. The Fund, the Guild, and the Professional Classes War Relief Council together raised the necessary money.

A captain in the Territorials was killed in action, and left a widow, and two children, aged 3 and 4½ years. The Fund investigated the case, and referred it to the Officers' Families Fund, who gave her a grant to meet her immediate necessities. The Fund also obtained work for the widow, a trained nurse, who was thus enabled to earn her own living.

A major, R.A.M.C., Territorial, was called out at the beginning of the war and was abroad for over two years. He was invalided to England and put on home service. His practice was completely lost by his absence. There are three children—one in the Navy, one in the Army, and one at school. He had to give up his house, as he was in difficulties with rent, taxes, and education. The Fund gave £50, and further help was obtained from other sources.

A captain in the R.A.M.C.(T.), with a wife and six children, found the income derived from his practice, left in charge of a *locum*, and the balance of his Army pay insufficient to meet his expenses. He obtained assistance from the Civil Liabilities Committee and the Officers' Families Fund, and a grant was made from the War Emergency Fund towards the education of the children.

A practitioner, earning £700 to £800, volunteered for service, leaving his practice in the hands of a neighbour, who was not a success. There were two children, aged 7 and 10, and another baby was born shortly after the husband left. The wife contracted pneumonia and nearly died. A resident patient had to leave the house. Rent and other expenses led to a debt of about £80. This the doctor could not meet, and he hurried back from the trenches to save his home from being sold up. The Fund voted £25, the Guild gave £15, the Officers' Families Fund £25, and the Professional Classes War Relief Council offered further help, with the result that he returned to the Front with his immediate anxieties relieved.

SIR,—We beg to support the urgent letter of appeal to this Fund which appeared in the last week's medical journals.

This Fund was instituted by the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund last year to afford assistance to members of the profession who, in consequence of having joined the Army Medical Service, find themselves in temporary difficulties.

We very strongly commend the claims of this Fund to the generous support of both the profession and the public.

We are, etc.,  
**FREDERICK TAYLOR**  
 (President, Royal College of Physicians).  
**W. WATSON CHEYNE**  
 (President, Royal College of Surgeons).  
**W. H. NORMAN, Surgeon-General, R.N.**  
 (Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy).  
**ALFRED H. KEOGH**  
 (Director-General, Army Medical Service).  
**WILLIAM OSLER**  
 (Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford).  
**T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT**  
 (Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge).  
**JOHN TWEEDY**  
 (Past-President, Royal Medical Benevolent Fund).

11, Chandos Street,  
 Cavendish Square,  
 W. 1.

June 16th.

#### OBITUARY.

WILLIAM RAWES, F.R.C.S.Eng., M.D.Durh.

To the great number of the friends of Dr. Rawes the news of his death came as a sudden shock, as few had heard of any severe illness. There is no doubt that the closing of St. Luke's Hospital was in a measure a great sorrow to him, though he was looking forward to a well-earned holiday. He told the writer that he felt parting from the majority of the patients as old friends, and these same feelings were, I know, reciprocated by the patients.

Dr. Rawes was educated at the London Hospital. After qualifying in 1885 he was appointed House-Physician to Drs. Hughlings Jackson and Stephen Mackenzie, and later to a House-Surgeoncy under Mr. John Couper. A few years later he became Assistant Medical Officer at St. Luke's (July, 1891). He was made Medical Superintendent on December 26th, 1898 (upon the retirement of Dr. George Mickley), and was still an officer on the date of his death, March 6th, 1917. Dr. Rawes attended frequently the meetings of the Association, and on two occasions the South-Eastern Division met and were hospitably entertained at St. Luke's.

A former assistant and intimate friend writes:

"He was a man of wide intelligence, great intellectual powers, and of detached views. He thought for himself, and refused to take anyone's views or teaching without first examining it closely. Main and broad questions, and practical subjects in his work as alienist, were those to which he devoted his mind, but he refused to waste his time and intellectual energy on any impractical or futile subjects, or those, as a rule, of purely academic interest. His advice in cases of mental disease, and also in all medical and surgical cases, was always most valuable, as it was not only sound, but enlightening from its practical standpoint.

"The guiding principles of his life were truth, honesty, and justice, and these endeared him to his friends, his patients, and to all who worked with him, as one on whom they could rely, and to whom they could give their best service. He also possessed a fine sense of humour, which is essential to success. His principal recreations were foreign travel and reading history and travel. At such sport and games of skill as he could practice he was good, and enjoyed them. He was a keen Mason, and Treasurer of the London Hospital Lodge."