

appointed Resident Physician at the Royal Earlswood Institution, and from there he was called to fill the highly important position of Medical Superintendent of the London County Asylum at Claybury at its opening, which post he held for a period of close on twenty-four years; a distinguished position which has involved no small expenditure of energy, physical and mental, in the fulfilment of the arduous and responsible duties, medical and administrative, connected with such a large institution. And it is not a matter of surprise that the health of any individual so circumstanced should eventually break down; an event which we greatly regret has occurred in the present instance.

Indications of the esteem in which Dr. Armstrong-Jones was held have been unmistakably shown on the occasion of his retirement. He was the recipient of an illuminated address from the Asylums Committee of the London County Council, which conveys in generous terms a well-deserved tribute to his services while in the asylum, along with an expression of sincere regret at the necessity for his retirement. He was also presented with a handsome tea and coffee service by the medical and lay staff of Claybury Asylum, and a number of the very numerous patients who are, or have been, under his care have expressed their regard for him by the gift of a silver inkstand.

Dr. Armstrong-Jones has had a long and intimate connection with the Medico-Psychological Association. He acted as General Secretary for nine years, 1897-1906, and in the latter year he was elected to the Presidential chair, being thus awarded the highest honour which it is in the power of the Association to bestow. He has contributed valuable and interesting papers to various periodicals, including our own Journal. While regretting his retirement from the asylum service, we hope that his health may in time be fully reinstated, and that he may yet be in a position to do useful work, and that his talents, his long experience, and his versatility will not be lost to psychiatry and social progress.

OBITUARY.

DR. J. ST. L. KIRWAN.

THE death of Dr. Kirwan, late Medical Superintendent of Ballinasloe Asylum, on August 8th, was as sudden as it was unexpected. He did not appear to have been suffering from ill-health in any way, although it was stated at a meeting of the Committee held subsequently to his death that for some time past his life was uninsurable. It was only in May last that he returned to the asylum after six months' service in connection with recruiting, having volunteered to assist with his motor car in that department in the autumn of last year. On the day of his death he was working in his office, and finding the heat there oppressive he went to the front door in search of coolness. When conversing there with his brother-in-law he complained of the sun being too hot, and withdrew into the house in the direction of his office. Very shortly afterwards he was heard to fall heavily, and when assistance arrived life was found to be extinct. His death was apparently due to heat apoplexy.

Dr. Kirwan had filled the office of Medical Superintendent of Ballinasloe Asylum for the preceding twelve years, having succeeded the late Dr. Fletcher after having served some years as second assistant there. He seems to have enjoyed the confidence of his Committee, the members of which, at a meeting held shortly after the sad event, spoke in high terms of his ability, honesty, and straightforwardness, and passed a resolution of sympathy with his bereaved relatives. He has left a widow and one child to mourn his loss. Dr. Kirwan had been a member of the Medico-Psychological Association since the year 1899.

ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION.

On August 21st Sir William Byles asked a question in the House as to the amount of overcrowding in asylums, whether any further reduction was proceeding or was in contemplation, and what was the present proportion of doctors to patients in the county asylums which remained available for the care and treatment of their original inmates. Mr. Brace said that the amount of overcrowding varied in different asylums, but intimated that on an average it might be