

**David Lees, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

THROUGH the early death of David Lees, who passed away on March 25, 1934, at the age of fifty-three, the medical profession has lost a striking personality and an outstanding leader of opinion and action.

During the World War he served in France as a Regimental Medical Officer to the Welsh Guards and the Irish Guards, and his record of service was marked by high courage and determination in the face of dangers and difficulties. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order "for Gallantry in Action," and was twice mentioned in dispatches, first during the Third Battle of Ypres, and later in the Battle of Passchendaele.

The initiative and resource which characterised his war service were transferred in 1918 to the investigation and treatment of venereal disease, and he published two papers embodying the results of original work which were the forerunners of a remarkable stream of publications which gave him an international reputation as one of the leading authorities in the world on the subject of venereal disease.

In October 1919 he was appointed Clinical Medical Officer in Venereal Diseases to the Edinburgh Corporation. In establishing subsidiary treatment centres, and in building up this important department of the Public Health service, he displayed such pre-eminent qualities of organising and administrative capacity as to bring him prominently before the civic authorities as a man endowed with an extraordinary capacity for constructive planning. He undoubtedly had a flair for getting things done, and foresight which enabled him to visualise and anticipate future developments.

In May 1926 he was invited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and by various governing bodies in India to conduct an investigation into the incidence and effect of venereal diseases, and to advise on what measures might be taken to deal with the problems of venereal disease, infant welfare, and maternal mortality. For this investigation, carried out with his usual thoroughness and efficiency, he received the thanks of the Viceroy and the Central Legislative Council.

From 1925 onwards he was annually elected as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the British Social Hygiene Council, and in this capacity he devised and carried out many valuable schemes for the

dissemination of knowledge regarding venereal disease and the best methods to be adopted for combating it.

David Lees was an outstanding pioneer in the campaign against disease. He possessed the necessary driving power and the ability to convince others. He had amazing vitality, superabundant energy, and infectious enthusiasm. His memory is an inspiration, and his work an abiding monument. He left the world a legacy of better health and greater happiness.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1933.

J. G.