

congestion of good matter which had to be crowded out, that New South Wales, when we next meet, would do well to, as far as possible, specify and limit the work, in order that more benefit may be gained, and much labour not go unrequited.

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#### OBITUARY.

HARDINGE FRANK GIFFARD, M.A., F.S.A., Commissioner in Lunacy.

By the death of Mr. H. F. Giffard, from acute peritonitis, at Buxton on October 11th, the English Lunacy Commission has again been deprived of one of its members, who, although he had only been in office for eight years, had become the Senior Legal Commissioner on the lamented death of Mr. Urmson in September, 1907. Mr. Giffard was the son of the late Judge Giffard, and was born at Hampton Wick in 1860. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, and was called to the bar in 1887. In the administration of 1886-92, and again in that of 1895, he acted as private secretary to his uncle, Lord Chancellor Halsbury. In the latter year he was appointed Secretary to the Lunacy Commission in succession to Mr. G. H. Urmson, and on the death of Mr. Frere in 1900 he became a member of the Board. He held sound views as to the duties of Lunacy Commissioners and their primary function in the guardianship of the insane, views which found expression in the evidence he gave before the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded. He was of sturdy physique, and fond of all forms of active exercise; but he was especially devoted to antiquarian research, which, with him, was more of a pursuit than a hobby. Doubtless the fact that he came of ancient lineage—for one Walter Giffard was a close friend of the Conqueror—and that many of his forbears had held high office in Church and State, stimulated his zeal in this study; and he was a prominent member of the Society of Antiquaries. It was therefore quite appropriate that he should have been laid to rest at Chittlehampton, in North Devon, of which the fine church contains monuments of the Giffards of the 17th century, whose ancient seat of Brightley is in the vicinity. Needless to add, too, that he was an enthusiastic Devonian. Mr. Giffard married in 1900, and has left a widow and two young children to mourn their loss.

S. C.

#### JAMES ADAM.

DR. J. ADAM, of West Malling Place, Kent, whose death it is our painful duty to record, was one of the oldest and best known members of our specialty.

Born at Perth in 1834, he obtained his medical education at the Edinburgh University, graduating with distinction. In 1857 he joined the Indian Medical Service, serving through the Mutiny. Quitting this service he became the Resident Medical Officer at Bethnall House Asylum in 1860, later becoming Senior Medical Officer and Acting Medical Superintendent of the female side of Colney Hatch.

In 1870 he was appointed Superintendent of the Metropolitan District Asylum at Caterham, where he remained until 1879, when he became Superintendent of the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, and of the Southern Counties Asylum.

Retiring from public asylum work, Dr. Adam acquired in 1883 the West Malling Place Private Asylum, which he continued to direct until the onset of the illness that proved fatal.

The successive appointments held by Dr. Adam are sufficient evidence of his great professional capacity, which was manifested by untiring energy and zealous desire to improve the organisation of the institutions committed to his care. This was especially the case in regard to West Malling, which he practically reconstituted.

His literary contributions on Self-mutilation in Tuke's *Dictionary of Medicine*, and others in the *Journal of Mental Science*, *Lancet*, etc., are evidence of his interest in the scientific side of his life's work.

Dr. Adam, like many other private asylum superintendents, took an active part in the affairs of his locality, where his loss will be felt by a numerous circle of friends. He leaves a widow, four sons, and four daughters to mourn his loss. His own failure of health dated from the death, two years ago, of a son whose health