

between the two diseases. Ventriculography and cerebral operations were discussed by Antoni, Olivercrona, Magnus, Monrad-Krohn. Prof. Henschen spoke of the physiology of binocular vision, and in another communication pleaded the necessity of assuming an "agraphic centre." Hansen related observations of a disease which he considered to be identical with Huntington's chorea, and claimed that this disease had been observed and described by a local practitioner in Norway long before Huntington. Further interesting communications were made by Hagelstam, Marcus, Wohlfahrt, Thjötta, Winther, Höglund, Werno, Jörgensen, Sahlgren and Nysten, Kahlmeter and Bruusgaard.

On the President's proposal, Prof. S. E. Henschen, the nestor of Scandinavian neurologists, was elected "President d'honneur."

Finally it was decided that the Fourth Scandinavian Neurological Congress should be held in Helsingfors in 1929.

[Communicated by Dr. T. Lossius, M.B., Secretary of the Congress].

CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF DR. PHILIPPE PINEL.

The following letter from the Association was conveyed by the Association's representative, Dr. Donald Ross, to the Congress of Alienists and Neurologists of France, held at Geneva and Lausanne from August 4-7, 1926, at which the centenary of the death of Pinel was celebrated.

"The President, Officers and other Members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association send their cordial and fraternal greetings to the Alienists and Neurologists of France assembled in congress at Geneva and Lausanne, August 4-7, 1926, and with their colleagues likewise engaged in the humane and noble duty of treating those suffering from mental disorders, welcome this opportunity of recording their appreciation of the great work done by Philippe Pinel, whose personality has been an inspiration to psychiatric physicians in every country of the world.

"The Members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, in acknowledging their indebtedness to Pinel, feel that they have faithfully carried on the great tradition he created. They also feel that they are associated with him in no ordinary way. It was Pinel who translated into French the medical works of Prof. Cullen, of Edinburgh University—himself a great psychiatrist. Our academic courses of lectures on psychiatry were directly inspired by Esquirol—first the pupil and then the friend of Pinel.

"The allied work of John Howard in regard to the reformation of prisons, workhouses, etc., which also drew attention to the pitiable lot of the weak-minded and insane confined there, carried out the ideals of Esquirol, which is another bond between us and Pinel.

"On this memorable occasion, which recalls the glorious and epoch-making work of a great French alienist, the Royal Medico-Psychological Association sends its congratulations to those now assembled, whose brilliant achievements have advanced psychiatry to the high position it now occupies among the medical sciences."

R. WORTH,
Hon. General Secretary,
The Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

OBITUARY.

ROBERT HENRY COLE, M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond.,
Physician and Lecturer in Mental Diseases, St. Mary's Hospital, London, and
Ordinary Member since 1892.

THE sudden and unexpected death of Dr. R. H. Cole on August 10 was the result of an attack of angina pectoris. Of the condition which proved so rapidly fatal he had no previous warning, and was active and cheerful up to the evening of the night of his death, when he was preparing to start for a holiday in Brittany.

Dr. Cole was born in 1866, and was destined for the Civil Service. Always

keenly interested in medicine, he entered St. Mary's Hospital on the first opportunity, and qualified in 1889. His early business training was of great value, and he himself often remarked that a short acquaintance with business and office routine proved a great asset to a medical man in later years. He graduated as M.B.Lond. in 1892, and proceeded to the M.D. in 1895. The following year he took the M.R.C.P., and was elected a Fellow in 1917.

After holding a house appointment at St. Mary's Hospital he became a Resident Physician at Moorcroft House, where he did many years of valuable and painstaking work. Up to the date of his death he visited Moorcroft, Hayes Park, and their dependencies weekly. His intimate knowledge of clinical psychiatry has been of great help to his colleagues, and was ever at their service. He had a very happy way of dealing with the "difficult" patient. He seemed to find some fortunate solution for every complaint and every grumble, and left behind him an atmosphere of peace where he found discord and discontent.

In 1907 Dr. Cole took up consulting work in London, shortly afterwards being appointed Physician for Mental Diseases to St. Mary's Hospital and Lecturer to the Medical School, posts that he held to the day of his death. He held many other appointments, including those of Examiner in Psychology and Mental Diseases to the University of London and Lecturer in Mental Diseases at Bethlem Royal Hospital. He was also Home Office Visitor to the State Inebriate Reformatory at Aylesbury, and Visitor to the Approved Institutions for the Mentally Defective in Middlesex. During the War he served as Consulting Physician to the Special Hospital for Officers at Palace Green.

In 1925 he was President of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was the author of numerous articles in various publications, and published in 1913 his well-known *Text-book of Mental Diseases*, now in its third edition.

Dr. Cole was a sound physician as well as a psychiatrist. He held strong views on the necessity for mental hospital physicians to obtain at least one resident appointment at a teaching hospital before taking up their specialty. As a psychiatrist he was a careful clinician, and could be relied on to give a remarkably accurate prognosis. He had a strong leaning towards the physiological views of the basis of mind, and for long regarded the neo-psychological school of thought with caution, and even hostility. But he was always a voracious reader, and of late years had shown much sympathy with the conception of unconscious mechanisms, recognizing their importance in the study of the symptoms of insanity. His Presidential Address to the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine is evidence of a wide outlook on the problem of mental disease, and provides a stimulating and hopeful survey of his years of experience in practice.

Dr. Cole will be sadly missed by our Association. His membership dates from 1892, and he was always ready to help our many activities. He was Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee from 1912-1921, when he became its Chairman. His extensive knowledge of the law and its history in relation to insanity fitted him to guide the work of this Committee in a special manner.

Dr. Cole was an ardent supporter of the After-Care Association, a branch of work in which he took a keen interest. For many years he insisted that some form of social service in connection with after-care was essential to the successful treatment of acute mental illness. He advocated the support of after-care work by funds provided by local authorities, and maintained that such expenditure would be well rewarded.

In his work, whatever it might be, Dr. Cole was tireless, and pursued his aims with a steady concentration, sparing neither time nor effort. In consulting work his advice was practical and based on a long and close contact with patients. Widely read, and singularly well informed, his guidance was often sought by younger men, whose difficulties he would smooth by wise and kindly counsel. A loyal colleague, and a staunch friend, his passing will leave a gap in the lives of those who knew him best that can never be filled. For his sake we can rejoice that the end came suddenly, with little suffering, and while still enjoying the fullness of his powers. To his family his sudden loss will be a grievous blow. For Dr. Cole found his greatest joy and happiness in the intimacy of his family circle. To his widow, his son and daughter, the thoughts of all of us will go out in heartfelt sympathy during this time of bereavement.

G. W. B. JAMES.