

principal Act so as to impose on Local Authorities the duty of providing suitable training or occupation for defectives, whether under supervision or guardianship, or in certified institutions. In some instances defectives, who would otherwise need institutional treatment, may properly be dealt with by way of supervision or guardianship if suitable training or occupation is provided for them. In order to meet cases where there may be adequate reasons for not providing training or occupation for defectives under supervision, a proviso is included in the Act under which Local Authorities are relieved from the obligation if they satisfy the Board that the reasons are adequate.

Section 7 also imposes on the Board the duty of exercising a general superintendence over the training and occupation of defectives.

8. Section 8 provides that joint Committees constituted under Section 29 of the principal Act shall be bodies corporate, that they shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and that they may hold land for the purpose of their powers and duties without licence in mortmain.

9. Section 9 amends Section 44 of the principal Act, which relates to the determination of residence. The operation of that Section has occasioned some injustice in certain areas where public or charitable institutions have been established and cases of mental defect occurring therein have become chargeable on the Local Authority of the area, irrespective of the patient's original place of residence. Section 9 of the new Act is designed to remove this difficulty by providing that where an Order under the Mental Deficiency Act is made in respect of a person in an institution, his place of residence for the purpose of Section 44 shall be deemed to be the place which was his place of residence immediately before he was received into the institution.

10. Section 10 specifically provides that a Local Authority may receive into its own certified institution defectives from any other Local Authority. It also enables an Authority, which is both the Local Education Authority and the Mental Deficiency Authority, to provide an institution to be used both for a certified institution under the Mental Deficiency Act and for a certified school under the Education Act, 1921.

I am, Sir,  
Yours obedient servant,  
F. J. WILLIS,  
Chairman.

*To the Clerk  
to each Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts in England and Wales.*

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#### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Mental Nursing Committee.*—Mr. Blackman, Miss Brown, Miss Bushby, Miss Cowlin, Dr. Fawcett, Lady Galway, Miss Hogg, Dr. Worth.

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#### OBITUARY.

SIR DAVID FERRIER, LL.D., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

Honorary Member since 1895, died March 19, 1928.

(A full obituary with photograph will appear in the July issue of the Journal.)

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ALEXANDER LAWRENCE, M.A., M.D. Aberd.,

Once Medical Superintendent, Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Upton, Chester.  
Ordinary Member since 1870.

There died at Chester, on November 23, 1926, in the person of Dr. Alexander Lawrence, one of the few members remaining of those who joined the Association in the '70's. The news of his decease only reached us recently else this obituary notice would not have been so long delayed. For many particulars regarding his life we are indebted to Mr. Vincent Williams, County Accountant of Cheshire, who has also supplied us with a copy of the *Banffshire Journal* of November 30,

1926, which devotes more than a column to Lawrence's career under the heading "A Benefactor of Cullen." Though Lawrence spent most of his life at Chester, his heart was in his native town, the picturesque Royal burgh of Cullen, which he visited annually, and where he was a well-known figure and a "valued and mindful friend to the town." In 1910 he and his sister jointly presented the town with its one public clock, a gift of some munificence, which was placed in the steeple of the United Free Church, in memory of their father, who was for many years a leading office-bearer. Lawrence was a keen golfer, an enthusiastic and skilful angler and an ardent naturalist. He knew the flora and fauna of his district well. He had stories to tell of every peak and glen and bit of rocky coast thereabouts, and was a delightful companion, whether ascending the Bin or at golf on Cullen links, or when plying the rod in the Cullen burn. He was, moreover, a lover of books and a great reader of the best literature of this country and of France—a pleasure it is sad to relate he had to forego during the last year or so of his life owing to blindness. Good humour, kindness and modesty were his outstanding features and he had a host of warm friends and admirers, both in his native town and at Chester, many of whom attended his funeral at Anfield, Liverpool. He left pleasant memories with all who knew him. He died worth £40,381 all of which he bequeathed to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, except a gift of £250 to the Chester Royal Infirmary, and about £5,000 in bequests to relatives and friends.

Lawrence was born at Lintmill—a suburb of Cullen, Banffshire—on October 29, 1845. He received his early education at Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy, and at the old Grammar School, Aberdeen. He passed on to the University of that city and graduated in Arts in 1866. Taking up medicine as a profession he obtained the degrees of M.B., C.M. in 1869, and the degree of M.D. in 1872.

After holding an appointment as clinical assistant at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, he was appointed, in 1870, second Assistant Medical Officer, County Asylum, Upton, Chester, where he succeeded Dr. Davidson as Medical Superintendent in 1895. He retired on superannuation in June, 1910, and died at the great age of 81. For a time he was Superintendent of the Chalmers Hospital, Banff.

The Cheshire Asylum, when he joined the staff there, accommodated only about 500 patients. Under his superintendency many notable advances in care and treatment were made, including the completion of the new buildings, which more than doubled the accommodation.

Lawrence had breadth of mind, great good humour and kindness which, disarming criticism and opposition, made him a successful administrator. He was highly respected as a psychiatrist, especially in Chester, but his quiet and unassuming disposition favoured a life of retirement and he never sought publicity. He was interested in many sciences, and for many years a member of the Chester Society of Natural Science. He took part in the research work of his friend Dr. John Elliott, of Chester, but never, as far as we know, made any contribution to medical literature himself.

Dr. Lawrence was unmarried and an only son. His only sister, Miss Jane Lawrence, of Cullen, died in February, 1927.

J. R. LORD.

#### JOHN CARLYLE JOHNSTONE, M.D.Glasg.

Once Medical Superintendent, Roxburgh District Mental Hospital, Melrose.  
Ordinary Member since 1878.

As recorded in the January issue, the death of Dr. J. Carlyle Johnstone took place in Edinburgh on November 6, 1927.

Born in 1855 at Hobkirk, in the county of Roxburgh, Dr. Johnstone received his school education partly at Dumfries Academy and partly on the Continent. At the University of Glasgow he was the most distinguished student of his year, taking five first medals and graduating M.B., C.M., with first-class honours in 1877, and M.D. in 1891.

In 1878 he was appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Fife and Kinross District Asylum, and became a member of our Association. In 1880 he was appointed Assistant Physician to the Edinburgh Royal Asylum at Morningside, under Sir Thomas Clouston, and in 1885 he became Medical Superintendent of the Roxburgh District Asylum at Melrose—a post he held with much distinction for over thirty years.