

most his fellow men. He gave not his time only or his thought but himself to the public weal. Some words of the address already referred to presented to him by the officials of the Irish Lunacy Service show the impression he made upon those fitted to pass judgment: "To our profound regret you now pass from the stage of official life, though we are glad to think your 'eye is not dimmed nor your natural force abated.' But your work will *not* pass. It will remain to work an epoch in the history of the treatment of the Irish insane and to act as a stimulus to the men of the newer generation to emulate your example of unselfish consecration to high ideals of public duty and the national well-being. When the history of asylum administration in Ireland comes to be written your place among the greatest of public servants in this department of the King's Government is secure and no man can take it from you."

JAMES RORIE, M.D.

Born April 4th, 1838. Died April 3rd, 1911.

DR. RORIE was born in Arbroath and came of a Highland ancestry. His grandfather fought at Culloden on the losing side, and his father had dealings with Rob Roy. His life cannot be understood without reference to the more than half Celtic element in his blood, and his Forfarshire upbringing. He had a distinguished career as a student in Edinburgh University, taking many prizes, and finishing his student course by receiving that coveted distinction of a gold medal for a thesis containing original work on the sympathetic system of nerves. As a student he was a quiet, studious, obstinate, ambitious man, whose opinions, when formed, were adhered to against all odds, and whose prejudices were strong and picturesque, like those of most men of Celtic races. The element of fight and opposition added zest to his life. He was not easy to move by mere argument and logic. He liked metaphysics and philosophy, and that side of his mind influenced all his subsequent scientific work and life. His self-confidence made him somewhat independent of personal friendships. After graduation he at once obtained the appointment of Assistant Physician to the Dundee Royal Asylum under Dr. Wingett, who died within a year, and Dr. Rorie was appointed his successor in 1860, at the unprecedentedly early age of twenty-two. Many of his friends thought that it would have been better for him if he had had more experience and had seen more of other institutions and other men and their work before he attained so responsible a position. He threw himself into his work, however, with a dogged zeal and an infinite conscientiousness. He joined the Medico-Psychological Association in 1860, and was, at his death, its senior member in Scotland, and the fourth on the list of the Association. He was appointed the Secretary of the Association for Scotland in 1861, and held that position till 1869, doing the work to the satisfaction of everyone. The old Dundee Asylum was in the middle of the town, its construction was antiquated, and its grounds quite insufficient. Dr. Rorie at once set himself to the education of his Board and the public of Dundee so that they might take steps to procure a new site and build a new institution on modern principles. In due time the magnificent site at West Green overlooking the river Tay was purchased. The present Mental Hospital was in due time built there, under Dr. Rorie's advice and superintendance. He devoted his whole time and energy to this work for several years. As its Physician-Superintendent he was a painstaking and hardworking official. He spent more time in his wards than most men, he knew his patients thoroughly and took all their cases himself, going minutely into the details of their clinical symptoms, mental and bodily. His individuality was so strong that he tolerated advice and opposition badly. He differed with the Dundee Parochial Board as to their policy of removing the incurable patients to the lunatic wards of the town poorhouse, and was unyielding in his opposition, so bringing worry on himself that a more facile man would have avoided. He had high ideas as to the accommodation and treatment of the insane, curable or incurable, and unflinchingly opposed anything that fell short of those ideas.

Dr. Rorie's general mental character was a strong one. He was self-reliant and silent; he thought his own thoughts and came to his own conclusions, he lived for his work, and had the good of his patients and the success of his institution always

at heart. He was ambitious for the progress of psychiatry, which he looked at largely—too largely some would say—from the psychological side. His was not an agile mind. He was a successful lecturer on mental diseases to students in his school. He devised a classification of mental diseases, and drew up a synopsis of his lectures for his class implying much original thought. He was also a keen naturalist, as were most of his fellow-students in Edinburgh, and was President of the Dundee Naturalist's Society for two years. He published papers on the "Sympathetic System," on the "Supra-renal Capsules," on the "Treatment of Hallucinations by Electricity," and he took a great interest in lunacy legislation.

He resigned his position as Physician-Superintendent of the Dundee Royal Asylum in 1903, but kept on his lectureship in the medical school till his death, working hard in his laboratory at research work. To his friends he was always quietly genial and courteous. He belonged to the "Glassite" form of religion and was an Elder in its Church. He leaves a widow and two sons, one of them being in our department of medicine.

EDMUND BANCKS WHITCOMBE.

THE death of Edmund Bancks Whitcombe after a comparatively brief illness (pneumonia following an attack of influenza) deprives the Association of an old and enthusiastic worker in the cause of the insane, one who had taken an active part in the development of the Association, and who was always to the fore in promoting those reforms which, although now that they have been accomplished are regarded as commonplaces, were in the seventies and early eighties of the last century looked upon by many as revolutionary in their tendencies, and those who were active in their propagation as men scarcely to be more than tolerated in their meddlesome interference with the condition of things which then existed.

Born at Cleobury Mortimer in June, 1843, he qualified M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.S.A. Lond. in 1868, and after a brief experience in private practice as assistant to the late Mr. Burdett, he was for about one and a half years Medical Officer of the Birmingham Workhouse, and was appointed Assistant Medical Officer at the old Birmingham Asylum, Winson Green, in 1871. He obtained the post of Medical Superintendent at the East Riding Asylum, Beverley, in 1878, and returned to Birmingham as Chief in 1882, dying there on May 13th, 1911. His father and grandfather before him had been doctors, and he married in August, 1878, into a medical family, as his wife, who (with one daughter and four sons) survives him, was a daughter of the late Professor Clay, at one time a leading practitioner in Birmingham.

Dr. Whitcombe became a member of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1882, and filled the office of President with much acceptance in 1891 when the annual meeting was held in Birmingham. The foundation of the great Midland University led to his appointment as one of its first professors, and the honorary degrees of M.Sc., M.B., and B.Ch. were conferred on him as further marks of the esteem in which he was held by those who were intimate with his professional and other valuable work in the city of his adoption. He was a pioneer in the training of asylum nurses and attendants, and much of the credit of initiating the present system of examination is due to his early work in this direction, while his able advocacy of the more rational and liberal treatment of the insane in asylums has been fully recognised by all who have had an opportunity of either hearing him express his views on the subject or of seeing the changes carried out by him at Winson Green with the object of promoting the treatment of the mentally afflicted on hospital lines as far as that is possible.

The administration of his own asylum was a source of the most intense interest to him, and the success which attended his work there and in connection with lunacy matters generally in the great city to which he was so much attached was recognised in January, 1907, upon the completion of his twenty-fifth year of office as Medical Superintendent, by a dinner which was given to celebrate the event, and by presentations made to him by the Asylum Staff, and by the members of his Committee, who were so well acquainted with his work, and who valued his sturdy independence of character and his devotion to the duties of his, at times, trying position.

In private life he was a devoted husband and father, a most faithful and generous