

called upon to pay four-fifths and the Charity one-fifth of the expenses, but two years after, 1848, Rutland joined Leicester, and a further alteration was made in the agreement by which Leicester contributed seven-tenths, Charity two-tenths, and Rutland one-tenth.

As time went on the county patients were on the increase, while those on the Charity decreased, so that it was found necessary again to equalise matters by a fresh agreement in 1870. By consent of the Home Secretary, confirmed by the Court of Chancery, it was agreed that no private patients should be received save on the nomination of the subscribers, or in such manner as the Committee of Visitors, appointed by such subscribers, should determine on, and that such private patients should be 50 in number and no more (25 males and 25 females), who should be respectively kept in wards separately, as far as medical superintendence would allow of, from the pauper patients.

In consideration of the limitation in the number of patients, the interest of the Charity should thenceforth be considered to be £5,500, and that it should not be called upon to contribute to the erection of new buildings, or other improvement of the estate, but that the expenses should be borne in the following proportion: Leicester eight-ninths, Rutland one-ninth, and the Charity a share of the expense of keeping up the furniture and repairs in the proportion which the number of weeks spent by the Charity patients during the year bears to the number of weeks spent by the whole body of patients.

These terms held good till 1908, when the New County Asylum at Narborough was opened, and the position the Charity now holds is as follows: The business is conducted by a Chairman and a Committee of five members, elected annually by the subscribers; there are two separate blocks of 30 beds each. All patients must be admitted by consent of the Committee, and 50 of these must belong to the County of Leicester or Rutland, but the other 10 may come from districts outside the two counties, and for them a slightly increased charge would be made. The charge for each patient is carefully considered by the Committee, and naturally varies, according to the position of the payee; the admission is for six months, and at the end of that term the case is re-considered as to terms of payment, etc.

Though it entails more work in administration, I am sure the provision of separate blocks for this class of patient in the present day serves a most useful purpose, and should be a part of every county or borough asylum.

OBITUARY.

SIR GEORGE PLUNKETT O'FARRELL, M.A., M.D.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Sir George Plunkett O'Farrell, M.D., who passed away at his beautiful residence—The Croft, Oxshott, Surrey—on the morning of Thursday, June 22nd. He was ill for only three days, and the end came through cardiac failure. He had been occupied in making arrangements for a garden party in the interests of the After-Care Association to be held at his place on July 5th. While thus engaged he caught a chill, to which, however, he paid little attention. The Monday preceding his death he spent in London. On his return his temperature was found to have risen. That night he was unable to sleep and gradually he grew weaker till Thursday morning, when he passed away in the presence of his family.

George Plunkett O'Farrell was born in Boyle, Co. Roscommon, in 1845. He was the son of Dr. Harwood O'Farrell, J.P., an eminent physician who enjoyed a large practice in the west of Ireland. Young O'Farrell had a brilliant career in Trinity College, Dublin, graduating as First Senior Moderator in Experimental and Natural Science. He gained First Class Honours with his M.D. degree, and was elected to the high distinction of the Travelling Medical Studentship. He had, therefore, the great advantage of studying under the best medical teachers of his time on the Continent, and incidentally became an excellent French scholar. On his return to England he received an appointment to St. Peter's Hospital in London, which he held for some time. Later he returned to Boyle, assisted his father, and ultimately succeeded to his practice. He continued to work there for some years, when he was offered and accepted the position of Medical Inspector

under the Irish Local Government Board. At great personal sacrifice he accepted this appointment. His work as Medical Inspector revealed such striking ability that he was appointed a member of the Irish Prisons' Board and Inspector of Reformatories and Industrial Schools. It was while holding this office that he came under the notice of the then Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, who, impressed by O'Farrell's remarkable powers of observation as well as by his strength of judgment and tactful handling of men with whom he had to deal, offered him the post of Commissioner of Control and Inspector of Lunatics. He had as a colleague Dr. E. M. Courtenay, an expert in mental diseases and in asylum administration, formerly the Resident Medical Superintendent of the District Lunatic Asylum, Limerick, and Hon. Secretary of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association. The friendship that existed between these two men during the twenty years they worked together was interrupted only by death. In his new sphere of labour he found what was to be the vocation, and one might say the passion of his life. His innate love of humanity, his gentleness of nature, his desire to help the weak and the physically or mentally deficient, in a word, the fine and noble instincts of a singularly lofty nature, found in his new activities full scope for their exercise. If congenial work, and plenty of it, be the true condition of happiness and success, then we may account O'Farrell to have been among the most fortunate of men. His position made him the intermediary between the Government and the local authorities of the district asylums. He was at once the official executive of the Government and the guardian of the rights and interests of the asylum officials and patients. At the passing of the Local Government Act of 1898, which revolutionised the Irish Asylum Administration, his skill and knowledge assisted in effecting the transition from the old to the new order with nothing but benefit to all concerned. As inspector it was his duty to present annual reports to the Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Chancellor, and the House of Commons. Buried in blue-books are to be found valuable discussions from his pen on such problems as the causation, the increase, the treatment of insanity. When a Royal Commission was appointed on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded O'Farrell was chosen to represent the interests of Ireland. He discharged his task to the admiration of all his co-commissioners. He played an important part in furthering other legislative enactments on behalf of the more adequate treatment of the mentally afflicted. A knighthood was conferred upon him in 1899.

Under the age-clause he retired in July, 1910, much to the sorrow of all who had been officially connected with him. Some idea of the esteem in which he was held by representatives of all the official classes may be gained from the fact that he was the recipient of a compliment, unique perhaps in the history of the service. Under the presidency of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland an assemblage, consisting of the foremost men of all departments expressed their high appreciation, by gifts and words, of his eminent services in the interests of better asylum administration, and of a more scientific care of the insane. This was followed a few months later by a remarkable tribute to his personal as well as official virtues by all ranks of the Irish Lunacy Service who had served under him.

Socially he was the most charming of men. He was a welcome guest at the historic re-unions held at the house of the late Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, where assembled such cultured spirits as John Morley, W. S. H. Lecky, Lord Randolph Churchill, and Father Healy.

Since his retirement he spent a good deal of his leisure at the Garrick Club. His favourite pastimes were bridge and golf.

He married Miss Amy Mayhew, of Chester Square, London, in 1878, who survives him. There also survive one son, Ernest, a lieutenant in the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, and one daughter, the wife of Major Clark, D.A.A.G., Headquarters Staff.

Such are the main points of his career. It is, however, difficult to convey to those who did not know him an adequate conception of his personality or of the many-sidedness of his attainments. He was a remarkable illustration of that particular type of greatness which compels a not very robust body to do the will of the intellect. He set an example to his subordinates of unwearied industry and of devotion in a finely idealistic spirit to the duties committed to him. He recognised only an aristocracy of service; with him, he was greatest man who served.

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