

and Mental Deficiency Committee, the Medical Superintendents of nearly all the other London County Asylums and various County Asylums, Dr. Steen, the Acting General Secretary of the Medico-Psychological Association, and Miss Vickers, representing the Mental After-care Association.

The first part of the service being ended, a procession was formed which walked slowly through the grounds of the asylum to the asylum cemetery, where the concluding part of the service was held. There with appropriate ceremony the body of Sir James was committed to the ground, not far from the asylum where his chief life's work had been so well performed.

Requiescat in pace.

F. B.

DR. ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON DOUGLAS.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr. Douglas, late Medical Superintendent of the Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster, which occurred with almost tragic suddenness on August 26th. The following appreciative notice is taken from the *Lancaster Guardian*:

"Dr. Douglas, who was only 47 years of age, was a Scotsman, but spent his youth in the neighbourhood of Tyneside, receiving his education in Madras College, St. Andrews, and the Newcastle School of Medicine, and at Edinburgh. His first appointment was that of resident surgical assistant at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle, and he also held the appointment of registrar and clinical assistant at the Newcastle Throat and Ear Hospital; but throughout his career he has devoted special attention to mental diseases, and for a time held the position of resident clinical assistant at Dunston Lodge Asylum, Gateshead, and that of assistant medical officer at the East Riding Asylum, Beverley. With the exception of a period of two years, when he acted as deputy medical officer at Portland Prison, Dr. Douglas has been officially connected with the Royal Albert Institution since November, 1893, when he was appointed assistant medical officer, the senior medical officer at that time being Dr. Telford Smith. When the latter resigned his position in November, 1899, Dr. Douglas was appointed resident Medical Officer; and subsequently, when the death of Mr. Diggins (the late Principal and Secretary) in May, 1905, necessitated a change in offices, Dr. Douglas became Medical Superintendent, a position he has filled with conspicuous ability during a particularly arduous and trying time. During his tenure of office many important developments have taken place at the Royal Albert, the chief being the erection of the Ashton Wing for the accommodation of epileptic and feeble patients; the provision of the James Diggins Memorial Reception House, which enables the classification of the patients to be carried out with a greater degree of efficiency; and the initiation and development of the Farm Colony system, under which provision is made for forty patients. With an extensive practical experience of the treatment of all kinds of mental diseases, Dr. Douglas combined a marked ability in organisation and administration which has tended in no small measure to enhance the high reputation the Royal Albert has from the first maintained, and enabled it to be recognised as one of the leading institutions for the care and education of the feeble-minded in the country. His relationship with the staff was always most cordial, his geniality, kindness, and consideration endearing him to everyone with whom he was brought into contact.

"Dr. Douglas always emphasised the fact that the Royal Albert was an institution for the training of the feeble-minded, and the development of the educational work of the Institution, not only in the schools but in the Herbert Storey workshops, had his fullest sympathy and constant encouragement, the introduction of many new features which have had a beneficial effect being largely due to his earnest desire to secure for the afflicted people under his care the fullest advantage that systematic industrial training could bring about. During what may be termed the transition period which led to the passing of the Mental Deficiency Act in 1913, Dr. Douglas was more than once requisitioned to give evidence before Parliamentary Commissions, and the changes involved by the Act, which brought the Institution under the authority of the Board of Control, necessitated a great amount of arduous work, most efficiently and successfully performed.

"Outside his work for the Royal Albert, Dr. Douglas had many interests. He

was a lecturer to the St. John's Ambulance Association, coadjutor-examiner for the nursing certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, vice-president of the Asylum Workers' Association, and vice-president in 1910 of the Section of Psychology and Neurology of the British Medical Association. Though not a voluminous writer he has contributed to medical and other journals several papers of importance upon the mentally defective and kindred subjects. A man of great amiability, he made many friends, by whom his untimely death will be sincerely regretted."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Journal of Mental Science.

AN AID TO RECRUITING.

SIR,—The male attendants of military age employed in asylums have as a class not been backward in their duty to their country. Many of them enlisted at the beginning of the war, being encouraged to do so by the loyal attitude of Asylums Boards and Committees as regards pay, etc., and the vacancies created by these absentees have since been largely filled by men who are ineligible for military service. There are still, however, at the present time very many able-bodied young men employed as attendants on the insane. The presence of some of these is necessary, but the number required can be considerably reduced by the substitution of female nurses, especially in place of those attendants engaged in nursing the sick in the male hospitals and male infirm wards of asylums.

Fifteen years have now elapsed since the experiment of employing women on a large scale to nurse male patients in an asylum was tried in Scotland. All that was then said as to the advantages of female nursing for insane men, under certain limitations, has since been proved true by many observers, and the fears of the early opponents of this system have been found to be negligible, for the dangers that they prophesied have by forethought and care been avoided. The system is now, from the practical experience they have gained of its benefits, very strongly advocated by the Scottish Board of Control, and their judgment can be accepted without reserve. It has been all but universally adopted by the Scottish asylums.

As there is every indication that all eligible males who can be spared will soon be wanted for our military forces, I take this opportunity of directing the attention of the Medical Superintendents and the members of Boards and committees of asylums in England to this system, as it has up till now scarcely been introduced into English asylums. Not only will they be doing a patriotic duty by introducing these female nurses to enable more of their male attendants to enlist, but they can be assured that they will at the same time be adding to the comfort and well-being of the sick and infirm male patients under their charge.

I am, etc.,

THE ROYAL ASYLUM,
MORNINGSIDE,
EDINBURGH;

GEORGE M. ROBERTSON, M.D.,
Physician-Superintendent.

July 21st, 1915.

NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

DATES OF NURSING EXAMINATIONS.

Preliminary examination Monday, November 1st.

Final Examination Monday, November 8th.

Schedules must reach the registrar *not less than four weeks* prior to the date of Examination. For further particulars apply to Registrar, Dr. Alfred Miller, Hatton Asylum, Warwick.
