

We are glad, therefore, to be able to record that at a sworn inquiry held by the Board of Control on April 24th and 25th, 1922, into these allegations, Long Grove Mental Hospital and its medical and nursing staff emerged triumphantly. The Commissioners, after a very searching investigation, came to the conclusion that the charges made as to cruelty against the attendants in the wards were untrue and had no foundation in fact. Referring generally to the allegations they conclude their report by stating—"Our task has been to decide whether his allegations are true, and as to their falsitude we have no shadow of doubt." We regret that the exigencies of space do not permit of us reproducing in its entirety this most interesting and instructive report.

OBITUARY.

JOHN TURNER, M.B., C.M.Aberd.

JOHN TURNER was born at Portsmouth on March 11th, 1860. He was the eighth child in a family of nine. One of his brothers, Sir George Turner, became famous for his work on leprosy and other diseases. He was at one time M.O.H. for Portsmouth, and afterwards became M.O.H. for the Transvaal and Medical Superintendent of the Leper Asylum at Pretoria. Turner graduated in Medicine at Aberdeen in 1883, and soon afterwards became a medical officer at Brentwood Asylum, in which institution he spent the whole of his professional career. During the greater portion of his service he occupied the position of Assistant Medical Officer, and succeeded the late Dr. George Amsden as Medical Superintendent in 1910. He became a member of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1890.

Turner had the spirit of the true scientist. He was extremely modest, had no desire for publicity, sought no honours, and was quite free from the modern disease of self-advertisement. He loved knowledge for its own sake, and was a patient, accurate and zealous scientific investigator. His passion for research soon became evident, and in 1888 we find what appears to be his first contribution to our Journal—a record of a case of post-febrile mental stupor. His investigation of this case reveals his unswerving adherence to the biological methods of research; he had but little sympathy with the modern psychological trend in psychiatry. The bibliography appended to this notice will indicate in some slight measure Turner's unflagging industry. These papers only include his contributions to the *Journal of Mental Science*. He wrote many others, and was a valued contributor to Aldren Turner's well known work on *Epilepsy*.

Dr. J. C. Shaw, of Goodmayes Asylum, an intimate friend of Turner, has supplied the following personal details of his character and interests: "With Dr. Turner others always came first; he was kindness itself to all classes and was much beloved by his patients and staff. There was hardly a subject on which he could not converse; he was a great reader of the classics and of fiction—especially detective stories. He never wasted a minute; he spent hours in the *post-mortem* room and the laboratory, but nevertheless knew all about his patients. He had numerous hobbies; he was an enthusiastic but not very competent golfer, a keen motorist, a skilled photographer and an antiquarian. During his later years he devoted much attention to antiquarian pursuits; he used his motor very largely to survey Essex for the purposes of his hobby, and this was his chief interest after he retired from Brentwood. He was especially keen on the "windmills" of Essex and had some intention of publishing a book on the subject. He left all his books, MSS. and other materials to the Southend-on-Sea and District Antiquarian Society, of which he was one of the founders."

Dr. Turner was not a strong man, and his extensive scientific contributions are all the more remarkable from the fact that he had to battle against ill-health for the last twenty years. As long ago as 1904 he was taken seriously ill when attending a congress in Canada as a delegate from England. It was hoped that after the severe illness which had brought about his retirement had cleared up, he would have had many years of rest and leisure. This was not to be, however, and he died on March 6th, 1922. Dr. Turner was married and his widow survives him, but he had no children.

One cannot help reflecting that psychiatry owes a great deal to Turner and men of his kind. His heart was in his work, and he was content to work for no material rewards. Unfortunately, in the past there has been but little inducement for men to give their lives to scientific work such as Turner accomplished. Things are better now, and there are a number of asylums where thoroughly well-equipped laboratories enable the medical officer of scientific bent to undertake research under extremely favourable conditions and with skilled guidance, but the pioneers of psychiatry who persisted in research with but little assistance, teaching or encouragement, should always be gratefully remembered. Amongst these must John Turner be numbered, and he did much to contribute to our knowledge of mental disorder.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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 "Statistics dealing with Hereditary Insanity based on upwards of a Thousand Cases," vol. xlii.
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 "Giant Cells of the Motor Cortex," vol. xliv.
 "Pathological Changes in the Great Nerve Cells of Insane," vol. xlvi.
 "A Theory of the Physical Conditions Necessary for the Production of Melancholia," vol. xlvi.
 "Central Chromatolysis with Displacement of Nucleus in Cells of Central Nervous System," vol. xlix.
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 "The Continuity of Nerve Cells," vol. li.
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 "Thrombotic Origin of Epileptic Fits," vol. liv.
 "Blood-Pressure and Vascular Disease in the Female Insane," vol. lv.
 "Alcoholic Psychosis (Korshaw's Polyneurotic Psychosis)," vol. lvi.
 "Examination of the Cerebro-Spinal Fluid," vol. lvi.
 "The Classification of Insanity," vol. lvii.
 "A Biological Conception of Insanity," vol. lx.
 "Observations on the Rolandic Area in a Series of Cases of Insanity," vol. lxiv.
 H. DEVINE.

An extended obituary notice of the late Dr. James Middlemass will appear in the October number from the pen of Dr. Bedford Pierce.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: At the Royal College of Physicians and University, Edinburgh.

Monday, July 17th: Committee meetings at 3 p.m.; Council Dinner in the evening.

Tuesday, July 18th: Council and committee meetings.

Wednesday, July 19th: General meeting—morning session at 10.30 a.m.; at 1 p.m. the Managers of the Royal Hospital at Morningside invite members to lunch; 3 p.m., afternoon session, Presidential Address; 8 p.m., the Annual Dinner.