

RALPH BROWN, M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S.ENG., L.R.C.P.LOND.,  
*Senior Assistant Physician and Deputy Medical Superintendent, Bethlem and  
 Bridewell Royal Hospitals.*

Dr. Ralph Brown was one of a large family of sons, all serving their country; he had volunteered for a commission in the R.A.M.C., and the formalities for the granting of this had not quite been completed when his untimely death occurred from a severe attack of typhoid fever. Early in the war his youngest brother was taken prisoner; shortly after another was killed in Flanders, and this bereavement affected him very deeply.

Ralph Brown was educated at Sherborne School, and entered University College, London, in 1899, where he became Prosector of Anatomy, and later gained a gold medal in materia medica and therapeutics. Owing to the fact that the hospital was in the process of being rebuilt, he decided to carry out his clinical work elsewhere, and in 1903 gained the scholarship for third year students at Westminster Hospital. His career there was one of uninterrupted success. He took the conjoint diploma in 1906, and graduated M.B., B.S. at the University of London in 1908, and held in turn the posts of Resident Obstetric Assistant and Junior and Senior House Physician. He then became House Physician to Bethlem Royal Hospital, and decided to specialise in psychological medicine. He was then appointed Resident Medical Officer to Moorcroft Asylum, Hillingdon, but in 1911 he returned to Bethlem as Junior Assistant Physician. With this appointment he became Assistant Medical Officer to King Edward Schools, London and Witley. The latter work always filled him with pleasure and happiness, and often in his few spare hours of leisure he would visit the children and participate in their pastimes. He at one time held the post of Clinical Assistant to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System. He was a member of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was also co-editor of the *Asylum Workers' News*. In 1913 he took the M.D. in Psychology and Mental Diseases, and in 1914 was appointed Senior Assistant Physician to Bethlem Royal Hospital, which post he held to the day of his untimely death.

Although of a quiet and retiring disposition, he possessed a keen sense of humour, and his kindness of heart, his sympathetic manner, and his happy way of giving hopeful assurance to distressed patients will always be gratefully remembered by those who came in contact with him. So abundantly had he fulfilled the promise of his earlier years that the future must have held much success in store for him, and his death will not only prove a sad blow to his numerous friends, but a loss to psychological medicine. A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. E. G. O'Donoghue in the Hospital Chapel on October 10th, and attended by many colleagues and friends.

#### THE DEATH OF THÉODULE RIBOT.

Members of the Medico-Psychological Association will learn with regret that Théodule Ribot, the veteran editor of *La Revue Philosophique*, is dead.

"Those who for nearly half a century," says Gaston Rageot in his article in *L'Illustration* (pp. 23-30, December, 1916)—an article written with the loving sympathy so characteristic of a French writer, and from which most of the particulars mentioned in this brief notice are borrowed—"have been accustomed to see Théodule Ribot at *Le Collège de France*, at the offices of *La Revue Philosophique*, or merely as he walked along *La Rue des Écoles*, will preserve in their memories the image of that little spare man, of late somewhat worn with age, with his broad forehead, his straight chin, his amiable and keen expression, his whole face illumined with life, with intellectual  *finesse*, and with kindly grace."

Ribot all his life protested against being called a philosopher. He claimed only to be a savant, whose speciality was the study of what took place, very often unknown to ourselves, in our own consciousness.

In his psychological work he drew nearer to the physicians and the alienists than to the philosophers, believing that for moral as well as physical science the study of disease was not less useful than that of health.

He was a voluminous writer, and some of his books had an immense circulation.

The number of editions reached by *L'Attention*, *Les Maladies de la Mémoire*, and *Les Maladies de Volonté* were as great as those of the most popular novels.

"Is not loving one's fellows the best way of knowing them?" asks Gaston Rageot. "That was Théodule Ribot's method."

#### THE LIBRARY.

MEMBERS of the Association are reminded that the Library at 11, Chandos Street, W., is open daily for reading and for the purpose of borrowing books. Books may also be borrowed by post, provided that at the time of application threepence in stamps is forwarded to defray the cost of postage. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Lewis to enable the Association to obtain books from the lending library belonging to that firm should any desired book not be in the Library. In addition, the Committee is willing to purchase copies of such books as will be of interest to members. Certain medical periodicals are circulated among such members as intimate their desire to be included in the list.

The following gifts have been received, and the Committee desire to thank the donor:

Dr. William A. White.—*Bulletins 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D.C.*

The following books have been purchased for the Library:

*Instincts of the Herd in Peace and War*, by W. Trotter.

*Bodily Changes in Pain, Hunger, Fear, and Rage*, by Walter B. Cannon.

Members reducing their private libraries are requested to bear in mind the library of the Association.

Applications for books should be addressed to the Resident Librarian, Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.

Other communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the City of London Mental Hospital, Dartford, Kent.

R. H. STEEN,  
Hon. Secretary, Library Committee.

#### APPOINTMENT.

White, Ernest W., M.B.Lond., M.R.C.P., Emeritus Professor of Psychological Medicine, King's College, London, appointed Hon. Consultant in Mental Diseases in the Western Command with the temporary honorary rank of Major, Royal Army Medical Corps.

#### NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

##### *Dates of Nursing Examinations.*

Preliminary . . . . . Monday, May 7th, 1917.  
Final . . . . . Monday, May 14th, 1917.

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.

#### NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Quarterly Meetings: Thursday, February 15th, 1917; Tuesday, May 15th, 1917.

The Divisional Meetings are proposed as follows:

*South-Eastern Division*.—Wednesday, April 4th, 1917.

*South-Western Division*.—April 27th, 1917.

*Northern and Midland Division*.—April 26th, 1917, at the County Asylum, Macclesfield.

*Scottish Division*.—March 16th, 1917.

*Irish Division*.—April 5th, 1917; July 5th, 1917.