

Now, Sirs, when such highly qualified men as those mentioned give the book the highest praise, there appear to be good grounds for considering your reviewer's criticism as fallacious, and unworthy of serious consideration by the general public.

That some psychiatrists should look upon masturbation as being a symptom, rather than a cause of mental and physical ill-health is alarming to social reformers. I have had many opportunities for getting at the truth in this matter in this country, and in addition I was able to pursue my investigations from 1907 to 1914 in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland. Far from being a symptom, in my opinion masturbation is a very potent cause of ill-health. As I have already stated, the book is intended for parents generally, and if it is instrumental in bringing home to such parents the necessity of so training their offspring that entire avoidance of masturbation is the result, it will have served a very useful purpose, and have accomplished much good.

Expressing my regret for having trespassed to such an extent upon your valuable space,

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) OLIVER W. LINCOLN.

OBITUARY.

ALFRED BOWLES, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond.,
Ordinary Member of the Association since 1900.

THE death of Dr. Alfred Bowles occurred on December 21, 1925, at Eastbourne, where he had resided for the past twenty-five years. He undertook the care of both certified and voluntary patients in his house, and his results were highly successful. Possessed of dogged perseverance and of a cheerful disposition, his influence over patients was of a high order. Before settling at Eastbourne he had been a medical assistant at Moorcroft House for twenty-two years, and his practical experience of mental disorders was considerable. His work was characterized by conscientious thoroughness, and he gained the respect of everyone connected with him. He had been a member of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association for many years, and he was also a member of the British Medical Association and of the Eastbourne Medical Society. Of a retiring nature, he did not, however, frequent medical meetings, but nevertheless by diligent reading kept himself abreast of all modern medical developments. Dr. Bowles was educated at University College and St. Mary's Hospital. In earlier years he possessed a good baritone voice. He also cultivated hobbies, and was fond of mechanical inventions. His health, both physical and mental, continued good until he developed a cold a day or two before he died. Though he had reached the ripe old age of 84 he was active in his professional work to the day of his death, which took place suddenly from heart failure. Besides his widow, he leaves a son who is married, and a wide circle of friends to mourn his death.

J. F. S. HAY, M.B., C.M.Aberd., *J.P.*, Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals for New Zealand.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. Frank Hay, who had been a member of the Association since 1890, which occurred on board S.S. "Rauhine" on September 5, 1925, during the voyage from Southampton to Wellington.

He had been seriously ill for the last two years, but stuck to his duties as long as possible, and left for home to recuperate early in July of last year. He was, however, not benefited in health by the trip, and his strength gradually faded on the voyage home, and he passed away as stated above.

Born at Lucknow, India, in 1867, the late Dr. Hay was educated privately at Blenheim House, Wimbledon, and Aberdeen University. He obtained his M.B. and C.M. degrees in 1890, and was appointed Assistant Medical Officer at the Murray Royal Asylum, Perth, in 1890, a position which he held until 1896. He came to New Zealand in 1897, and occupied the position of Physician Superintendent of the Ashburn Hall (Private) Mental Hospital from 1897 until 1904. He was appointed Deputy-Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals in 1904, and held the

position for two years, being promoted to the rank of Inspector-General in 1907, on the death of the late Dr. Duncan McGregor. He was a member of the National Provident Fund Board and Prisons Board. In 1923 he married Mary Stuart, daughter of the late Right Hon. R. J. Seddon and Mrs. Seddon.

After graduating, Dr. Hay devoted himself to the study, care and treatment of the insane, and made this his life's work, but there was never any narrow professionalism about him. The fact that he had a strong literary and artistic bent won him as a student and afterwards a wide circle of personal friends and admirers, both within and outside the medical profession. His acquaintance with and appreciation of Shakespeare and other classics was quite exceptional, and he showed great taste as a capable judge and connoisseur of good books, good pictures and artistic antiques of all kinds. However, it was his warm-hearted, bright, genial and singularly lovable personality that won Dr. Hay his many friends and an inner circle of lifelong intimates, by whom his death will be keenly felt. He was the soul of honour and loyalty, and his personal regard for the afflicted and desire for their welfare was as genuine as it was welcome. The patients and staffs of the mental hospitals have lost in Dr. Frank Hay a most sincere well-wisher and friend, and the Dominion a most devoted public servant.—*September 7, 1925.*

The funeral took place on September 8. A service was held at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, where there was a large attendance of representatives from all sections of the community, including the Hon. Sir Maui Pomare (Minister in Charge of Mental Hospitals), Hon. Sir R. Heaton Rhodes (Minister of Defence and Chairman of the National Provident Fund Board), Hon. C. E. Statham (Speaker, House of Representatives), Mr. F. D. Thomson (Private Secretary), representing the Prime Minister (the Hon. J. G. Coates), many members of Parliament, the official heads of Departments of the Public Service, members of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, and practically all the members of the medical profession in Wellington. The Mental Hospitals Department was represented by Sir Truby King (Acting-Inspector-General), Dr. Prins (Deputy Inspector-General), Mr. G. C. Holden (Chief Accountant), and the members of the head office. Canon W. S. Bean, of Christchurch (brother-in-law), and the Ven. Archdeacon Johnson conducted the service at the Cathedral, and also at the crematorium at Karori.

[We are indebted to extracts from the *Dominion*, September 7 and 9, 1925, for these particulars.]

PERCIVAL L. LANGDON-DOWN, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.Camb., of Normansfield,
Hampton Wick, Middlesex.

Sympathetic reference was made to the death of Dr. Percival Langdon-Down by the President and Dr. R. H. Cole at the Quarterly Meeting held on November 17, 1925, which is reported on p. 142, but there was not then the opportunity of relating his many activities, the cessation of which will be keenly felt in many circles.

Percival Langdon Langdon-Down was born in 1868 and educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he qualified as M.B., B.Ch., in 1893.

He was at one time a House Surgeon and a House Physician at the London Hospital under Dr. Hughlings Jackson, who refers to him several times in his published works with appreciation. He afterwards entered general practice, but was much interested in psychiatry and joined the Association in 1902.

Since 1920 he had been closely associated with the medical work and management of Normansfield, Hampton Wick, Middlesex.

In public life he was a well-known and highly respected personage in the district in which he lived, but there were other interests which attracted him, in regard to which he from time to time held high civic posts.

He became a member of the Teddington Urban District Council in 1905, and was its Chairman 1907-08, 1914-20, 1923-24. He was Chairman of the Thames Valley Councils Association since its formation in 1914, a member of the Thames Conservancy since 1905, and Chairman of Richmond Bridge Committee. He did good service during the war as Chairman of the Food Control Committee. He was a Governor of Hampton Grammar School and Vice-Chairman of Teddington and Hampton Wick Cottage Hospital, and these by no means exhaust the number and character of his public activities, as to the value of which the testimony has been whole-hearted and from all quarters and parties.