

through these to the lasting benefit of the patients and institution. He quickly gained the entire confidence of the committee of county magistrates who controlled the asylum, and retained it to the full until his retirement in January, 1887, when he was granted a pension of £600 a year. The remaining fifteen years of his life were employed in consulting practice in mental diseases, and in gratuitous medical work amongst the poor of Thorpe. He was laid to rest on January 22nd in the picturesque churchyard of Postwick, beside his second wife and only son, whose death at Charterhouse School in 1886 was a grievous blow to his parents. He leaves one daughter, Mrs. Aubrey A. Blake, to mourn his loss. The funeral was largely attended by medical friends, including Messrs. Wm. Cadge, Charles Williams, Charles Muriel, Thomas H. Morse, Dr. Ernest White, and Dr. Law, the Acting Superintendent of the County Asylum in the absence of Dr. Thomson through ill-health. Chief Attendant Fox and several of the older members of the staff of the institution were also present as a mark of respect for their old superintendent.

#### SAMUEL ALEXANDER KENNY STRAHAN.

Many members of our Association will hear with regret of Dr. Strahan's untimely death, which took place on February 21st in London.

Born in Belfast in August, 1853, the second son of John Strahan, Esq., of that city, he was educated privately and at Queen's College, Belfast, where he had a distinguished career. He gained distinction also in his clinical work, being awarded the Malcolm Exhibition at the Belfast Royal Hospital, and the Gold Medal at the Belfast Hospital for Children. He graduated in medicine and surgery in 1879. He began practice at Callington, in Cornwall, in 1880, but not liking general practice he abandoned it for the appointment of Assistant Medical Officer at the East Riding Asylum, Beverley. In 1881 he obtained a similar post in Northampton County Asylum, where he remained until November, 1897, when he resigned, having the previous year been admitted a barrister of the Middle Temple.

In 1898, owing to poor health, he went for a tour round the world with Dr. Perry Patterson of Canterbury, returning to England the following year. After this he divided his time between living in the Middle Temple and travelling until the outbreak of the war in South Africa, when he offered to go to the front as surgeon, but on account of his age was not successful. Subsequently he made several voyages to Natal, where he frequently assisted in the military hospital at Durban and up country. His last visit was in 1901, when he had a very severe attack of dysentery, and after his return home he lived chiefly at Brighton in order to recuperate. While on a short visit to town he died suddenly from heart failure on the date mentioned.

From the beginning of his professional career Dr. Strahan devoted much of his energy to literary work. His first contribution was in 1890 to the *Lancet*, and his last in October of last year to the *Humanitarian*. Most of his writings were on professional subjects, especially dealing with questions relating to mental diseases. Besides his numerous articles on these subjects in our own JOURNAL, the *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal*, *Westminster Review*, etc., he published works on *Marriage and Disease* and *Suicide and Insanity*. These had a wide circulation.

In 1891 he read a paper before the British Association on "Instinctive Criminality," which was the subject of a long and bitter controversy in the Press. Dr. Strahan did not confine his literary activity to professional subjects, but contributed a good deal of fiction to magazines and published two short novels; all of these were published anonymously.

Dr. Strahan was a man of brilliant abilities and wide sympathies, kind-hearted to a fault, and was as an assistant loyal to the backbone. Politically he held extreme views, but had a great respect for his opponents. For many years he was a member of the Savage Club in London, and its members cancelled the Saturday night house dinner on the occasion of his death.

He never married. He leaves two brothers, James Andrew Strahan, barrister-at-law, Assistant Reader of the Law of Property, Lincoln's Inn; and George William Strahan, a solicitor and partner in the firm of Biggar and Strahan, Belfast. His only sister is the wife of Dr. McKee, of Belfast.