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WILLIAM CHARLES CLIFFORD SMITH.

Mr. WILLIAM CHARLES CLIFFORD SMITH, *O.B.E.*, *J.P.*, *M.Inst.C.E.*, *F.R.I.B.A.*, an honorary member of the Association, died at his home in Wallington, Surrey, on June 3, 1931. He was 76 years old, having been born on March 30, 1855, and from 1892 to 1924 he had been associated with the London County Mental Hospital Service as engineer and architect.

Mr. Clifford Smith was educated at the Anglo-French College and privately, and was trained in civil engineering by the late James Carrington Simpson, *M.Inst.C.E.*, in London and Ceylon. He served a works apprenticeship at Gateshead-on-Tyne, and had later professional experience at Saltaire and Glasgow, and in London with Maudslay, Sons & Field, whose Lambeth works by an odd coincidence occupied a site with which, when the London County Hall was erected upon it, he was again to have close relations at a later stage of his professional career. He had service under the Imperial Turkish Government at the Constantinople dockyard as chief of the technical department, an experience which gave him more than one good story to tell in after years. After the termination of that service he was appointed to be Asylums Engineer by the Visiting Committee of what were then the London County asylums, commencing his work in September, 1892. It was to be his duty to advise on all engineering and building works, and to prepare plans, specifications and estimates in particular for the three institutions at Banstead, Cane Hill and Claybury, and to act in an advisory capacity for the two at Hanwell and Colney Hatch, where at that time resident engineers were serving, but on the understanding that on the retirement of those officers full responsibility for those institutions would fall to him. The scope of his duties, however,

was soon enlarged ; he was associated with the engineering equipment of new hospitals designed by the late G. T. Hine at Bexley, Horton and Long Grove, and he was entirely responsible for the planning of the Manor Mental Hospital, the Ewell Colony and West Park Mental Hospital at Epsom, and of the Maudsley Hospital at Denmark Hill, for the construction of a central station for the supply of electricity and water to the London County Council's institutions at Epsom, and for substantial works of improvement, remodelling and extension at Hanwell, Colney Hatch and Banstead mental hospitals, as well as for works necessary, during 1921, to adapt the Manor Mental Hospital for the use which it now serves as a certified institution for the mentally defective. The war brought him new responsibilities ; he was actively engaged in the structural rearrangements necessary for the adaptation for service as war hospitals of three of the Epsom institutions (Horton, The Manor and the Ewell Colony), and for their subsequent reconditioning on return to civil use, and it was for his service in this connection that he was awarded the O.B.E. At his retirement in 1924 he was responsible for the structural and engineering maintenance of fifteen institutions for cases of mental disorder and mental defect, accommodating nearly 20,500 patients, instead of the five institutions for 10,175 patients with which he had first been associated in 1892. The London County Council in 1919 and subsequently year by year decided by special resolution to retain his services beyond the usual retiring age of 65, which he reached in 1920, pending the completion of important works upon which he was then engaged, the chief of which was the erection of West Park Mental Hospital, then once more under way after a long pause due to war conditions.

"Cliffy," as his older colleagues and familiars in the London service delighted to call him, was a man pre-eminently fitted for the position he held. He was above all things a practical man of affairs, he was gifted with a large measure of shrewd worldly wisdom, and he had an accurate eye for detail. He had grown up with the London County Mental Hospital Service, and there was very little that he did not know about his own side of it. The Council's Mental Hospitals Committee had learned to repose confidence in his judgment and to accept his advice, realizing that he was whole-hearted in his devotion to the interests of economy and efficiency in that section of the service for which he was responsible. Their confidence was not ill-placed, and when the time for parting came it was felt that the Service had suffered a real loss. Mr. Clifford

Smith was not merely the respected senior officer, he was personally popular, and he brought to his relations with his Committee and his colleagues, medical and other, a *bonhomie* which endeared him, and a *savoir faire* which carried him far. He was, indeed, a man of strong personality, but his strength was tempered with a saving grace of humour and sweetened with a disarming friendliness. His manner was inimitable. It was something of an education to see "Cliffy," with the aid of a small ivory rule which always appeared from his waistcoat pocket upon such occasions, demonstrating the virtues of one of his plans. The bright blue eye which he would cock quizzically at his questioner, the assured flourish of the rule, the imperturbable address, even the tilt of the reddish beard, which gave him a little of the air of a Captain Kettle, all helped to carry conviction. But it is fair to say that there was generally solid merit in what was submitted, and that the wisdom of the serpent, which was sometimes playfully attributed to the subject of this note, was really unmingled with serpentine guile.

With the thoroughness which characterized him, Mr. Clifford Smith early in his career had made himself acquainted with developments in mental hospital design in other countries, and had studied at first hand features of planning and construction in various parts of Europe, some notes of which were published. He became a whole-hearted advocate of the system of detached villas, which he was able to embody in his designs for the Ewell Colony for Epileptics and, later, for West Park Mental Hospital, the latest large institution of its kind to be provided by the London County Council.

After his retirement Mr. Clifford Smith continued to be busy with local government in his home district, as a Justice of the Peace for Surrey, a member of the Beddington and Wallington Urban District Council and of the Joint Isolation Hospital Board, and Chairman of the Wandle Valley Joint Sewage Board. In spite of some impairment of his health following a severe operation a few years ago, he continued these public activities almost until the time of his death.

R. H. C.