

at heart. He was ambitious for the progress of psychiatry, which he looked at largely—too largely some would say—from the psychological side. His was not an agile mind. He was a successful lecturer on mental diseases to students in his school. He devised a classification of mental diseases, and drew up a synopsis of his lectures for his class implying much original thought. He was also a keen naturalist, as were most of his fellow-students in Edinburgh, and was President of the Dundee Naturalist's Society for two years. He published papers on the "Sympathetic System," on the "Supra-renal Capsules," on the "Treatment of Hallucinations by Electricity," and he took a great interest in lunacy legislation.

He resigned his position as Physician-Superintendent of the Dundee Royal Asylum in 1903, but kept on his lectureship in the medical school till his death, working hard in his laboratory at research work. To his friends he was always quietly genial and courteous. He belonged to the "Glassite" form of religion and was an Elder in its Church. He leaves a widow and two sons, one of them being in our department of medicine.

EDMUND BANCKS WHITCOMBE.

THE death of Edmund Bancks Whitcombe after a comparatively brief illness (pneumonia following an attack of influenza) deprives the Association of an old and enthusiastic worker in the cause of the insane, one who had taken an active part in the development of the Association, and who was always to the fore in promoting those reforms which, although now that they have been accomplished are regarded as commonplaces, were in the seventies and early eighties of the last century looked upon by many as revolutionary in their tendencies, and those who were active in their propagation as men scarcely to be more than tolerated in their meddlesome interference with the condition of things which then existed.

Born at Cleobury Mortimer in June, 1843, he qualified M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.S.A. Lond. in 1868, and after a brief experience in private practice as assistant to the late Mr. Burdett, he was for about one and a half years Medical Officer of the Birmingham Workhouse, and was appointed Assistant Medical Officer at the old Birmingham Asylum, Winson Green, in 1871. He obtained the post of Medical Superintendent at the East Riding Asylum, Beverley, in 1878, and returned to Birmingham as Chief in 1882, dying there on May 13th, 1911. His father and grandfather before him had been doctors, and he married in August, 1878, into a medical family, as his wife, who (with one daughter and four sons) survives him, was a daughter of the late Professor Clay, at one time a leading practitioner in Birmingham.

Dr. Whitcombe became a member of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1882, and filled the office of President with much acceptance in 1891 when the annual meeting was held in Birmingham. The foundation of the great Midland University led to his appointment as one of its first professors, and the honorary degrees of M.Sc., M.B., and B.Ch. were conferred on him as further marks of the esteem in which he was held by those who were intimate with his professional and other valuable work in the city of his adoption. He was a pioneer in the training of asylum nurses and attendants, and much of the credit of initiating the present system of examination is due to his early work in this direction, while his able advocacy of the more rational and liberal treatment of the insane in asylums has been fully recognised by all who have had an opportunity of either hearing him express his views on the subject or of seeing the changes carried out by him at Winson Green with the object of promoting the treatment of the mentally afflicted on hospital lines as far as that is possible.

The administration of his own asylum was a source of the most intense interest to him, and the success which attended his work there and in connection with lunacy matters generally in the great city to which he was so much attached was recognised in January, 1907, upon the completion of his twenty-fifth year of office as Medical Superintendent, by a dinner which was given to celebrate the event, and by presentations made to him by the Asylum Staff, and by the members of his Committee, who were so well acquainted with his work, and who valued his sturdy independence of character and his devotion to the duties of his, at times, trying position.

In private life he was a devoted husband and father, a most faithful and generous

friend, hospitable in an unostentatious but genuine fashion, and no one who needed sound advice had cause to regret an appeal to him for his counsel, as he was particularly cautious, clear-sighted, and impartial in his judgment of men and affairs. He was a keen horticulturist, and the results he obtained in the not very promising atmosphere of the great manufacturing city would have done credit to places more favourably situated for the growth of the flowers and garden produce which he was so successful in cultivating.

A large attendance of men, among whom were many connected with the government of the city as well as members of his own profession, assembled on a bright spring afternoon in the beautiful cemetery at Brandwood End to pay a final tribute of respect to one who had never failed a friend, who was absolutely free from what is now designated as "side," and who had died just as it would have been his wish to do, in the midst of his work, with his mental power unabated, and in the house which he had occupied during many years of a strenuous, useful, happy and unselfish life.

SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRY OF PARIS.

IN our last number, in which the names of those who had been elected Corresponding Members of the Société de Psychiatrie of Paris were given, we find that we omitted the name of Dr. Fletcher Beach, of Coulsdon, who has also been elected a Corresponding Member.

THE LIBRARY OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Library 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 Association's Library.

The following books have recently been added to the Library:

Tanzi.—*A Text-book of Mental Diseases* (translated by Ford Robertson and Mackenzie).

Forel.—*Hypnotism*.

Clouston.—*Unsoundness of Mind*.

The Library Committee is indebted to Dr. R. Percy Smith for the presentation of the following books:

Denkschrift zur Errichtung der Kreis-Irrenanstalt Ansbach (1904)

Bresler.—*Deutsche Heil- und Pflegeanstalten für psychische Kranken in Wort und Bild* (1910).

Application for books should be addressed to the Resident Librarian, Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos St., Cavendish Sq., W. Other communications should be addressed to the undersigned at Long Grove Asylum, Epsom.

BERNARD HART,

Hon. Secretary, Library Committee.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Seventieth Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday and Friday, July 13th and 14th, 1911, in Dublin, under the Presidency of Dr. William R. Dawson.

On Wednesday, July 12th, there will be meetings of Committees at the Royal College of Physicians as follows: Parliamentary Committee, 2.0 p.m.; Educational Committee, 3.0 p.m.