

*Obituary.*

## FRANCIS KER FOX, M.D.

Our obituary this quarter comprises members of the Association in the prime of life, for whom a much longer career might have been reasonably anticipated. In the death of Dr. Fox, however, on the 7th of January, at the age of 78, we have to record the removal of one who might have years ago retired from active life, and felt justly entitled to enjoy a well earned and honourable repose.

Dr. Francis Ker Fox, the son of Edward Long Fox, the founder in 1806 of Brislington House Asylum, near Bristol, has for nearly sixty years been identified with that establishment, first as assistant to his father, and after the death of Dr. E. L. Fox, in 1835, as the senior partner with his brother, the late Dr. Charles Joseph Fox. The latter retired in 1867, when Dr. Francis Fox was joined by his son, Dr. Charles Henry Fox.

Dr. Fox studied in Edinburgh, Paris, and Gottingen, and was a graduate of Cambridge University. He was one of the earliest to recognise the merits of the non-restraint system, which he carried out consistently.

Dr. Fox was an eminently practical man. He was not a writer, and never contributed an article to this Journal. This is to be regretted, for one who had so long an experience, and so successful a practice, must have had much to say which would have been of the greatest interest and value to alienist physicians.

Dr. Fox was twice married: first to Janet, the daughter of the Rev. John Simpson, formerly Vicar of Congresbury, and afterwards of Keynsham, by whom he had several sons and daughters, amongst them being Dr. Edward Long Fox, of Clifton, Mr. Francis F. Fox, and Dr. Charles H. Fox; and, secondly, to Mary Bradley, the sister of the present Dean of Westminster, by whom he had several sons, including Dr. B. B. Fox, who has for several years assisted in carrying on the asylum, and is now a partner. As a local paper justly says, "Dr. Fox was a man of most urbane manners and great kindness of heart, and his death will be much regretted by the inhabitants of Brislington, by whom he, with the other members of the family, were highly esteemed." He will also be mourned by a much wider circle of friends.

## HENRY CLIFFORD GILL, M.R.C.S.

Mr. Gill, born in 1846, entered as a medical student at University College in 1863, after having passed the matriculation examination of the London University. He distinguished himself during his college career by obtaining the gold medal in the class of medicine, and after holding the appointment of house physician at University College Hospital, he became a clinical assistant at the Brompton Consumption Hospital. Accident rather than inclination led him into the branch of the profession he subsequently pursued, and after six months' study at Bethlem Hospital, he went to the asylum at Nottingham; from whence, in 1869, he passed to the North Riding Asylum at York, as assistant superintendent, remaining there until 1874, when he succeeded to the sole charge of the York Lunatic Hospital, Bootham, within the walls of which he succumbed on Monday, the 12th February, to an attack of pleuro-pneumonia. In the course of his brief career, he shaped his conduct by an unflinching sense of duty, and spared no pains in carrying out his work. No slight share of the success of the jubilee meeting of the British Association at York was due to his energy and intelligence as secretary of the Museum Committee, in the discharge of which office he had much responsible labour in acquiring and arranging the interesting exhibits which went far to make the meeting memorable. His path necessarily restricted the circle of his professional acquaintance, but as a member of the Medico-Psychological Society, he regularly attended its meetings; and he also took an active share in the proceedings of the York Medical Society, the members of

which ancient body honoured him by electing him their President last year. Several of his papers read before them deserved much wider audience. By his few intimate friends, Mr. Gill was regarded with feelings of more than ordinary admiration, for he possessed an intellect of no common order. The most divers forms of scientific inquiry successively attracted him, and he did not cease until he had mastered, at least, their principles. Those who knew him well will miss a good friend, from whom much was to be learned, and many a germ for future thought obtained.—*British Medical Journal*.

We may add that Mr. Gill's communications to the work of his own special department were not numerous; but one on Hyoscyamine in the treatment of the insane was much appreciated, and the last number of the Journal contains an interesting record by him of insanity in twins. Ten years ago, when a fresh impetus was given to the investigation of the brain in the insane, Mr. Gill threw himself with ardour into the inquiry, and prepared a large number of microscopic sections, many of which are unsurpassed to the present day.

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#### GEORGE MACKENZIE BACON, M.A., M.D.

The unsparing hand of death has suddenly deprived our specialty of one of its most valued members. Dr. Bacon, the Superintendent of the Cambridgeshire Asylum, succumbed on February 22nd to an attack of peritonitis, complicated with congestion of the lungs and kidneys.

His acute illness lasted only three days, though he had not been in his usual health for several weeks.

Having passed through his medical course at Guy's Hospital, and become a member of the College of Surgeons in 1858, Dr. Bacon joined the Lunacy Branch of the Profession as Assistant Medical Officer of the Norwich County Asylum in 1861.

From thence he was appointed, in 1864, Deputy Superintendent at the Cambridgeshire Asylum at Fulbourn, during the illness of Dr. Lawrence; and he graduated at St. Andrew's, the same year. After two years Dr. Lawrence died and Dr. Bacon succeeded him.

For 15 years he carried on the arduous and trying duties of the asylum without any Assistant, and it was only two years ago that he succeeded in getting an Assistant appointed.

During his period of office Dr. Bacon effected numerous alterations and improvements in his asylum, so that it was made more healthy, commodious, and cheerful, and it will now bear favourable comparison with the majority of English Asylums. The numbers increased under his superintendency from about 200 to 376.

Dr. Bacon was a clever alienist and a shrewd physician. He was also well-read in many scientific subjects, being an antiquary, a numismatist, botanist, and analytical chemist.

He was Secretary to the Cambridge Medical Society, at whose meetings he was a regular attendant and frequent contributor.

His contributions to Psychology and General Medicine were numerous; amongst them may be mentioned "The Handwriting of the Insane," "Crime and Insanity," "Lunacy in Italy," "On Athetosis," "On Epilepsy," and on "General Paralysis," besides many accounts of cases, mental, medical, and surgical.

He for a long time delivered Clinical Lectures at his asylum gratuitously and spontaneously, in acknowledgment of which the University of Cambridge conferred upon him in 1877 the honorary degree of M.A.

His sudden death came as a great shock to all who knew him.

At the asylum, where he spent so many years of his life, and where he was universally admired and esteemed, the blow has been very much felt. His funeral, which took place at Cherryhinton, near his asylum, was very largely