

venience to the staff of the Asylum, the work of the institution has gone on almost as usual.

The origin of the fire is still a mystery. The flames could be seen for miles around, and soon after the fire began several hundreds of people assembled outside the building.

The damage is partly covered by insurance.

A. F. M.

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*Obituary.*

JOHN DALE HEWSON, L.R.C.P. LOND.

In recording in this Journal the death of a well-known member of our Association, the late Medical Superintendent of the Coton Hill Asylum, Stafford, we cannot express the sentiments of those who knew him, better than in the following brief notice which appeared in the "Staffordshire Advertiser":—

**THE LATE DR. HEWSON.**—To a wide circle of friends in this county, and also in the county of Wilts, the death of Dr. Hewson, the Medical Superintendent of Coton Hill Asylum, which took place on the 10th inst., has brought deep sorrow and a sense of irreparable loss. He was appointed to his office in 1853, and had just entered upon his 31st year of service. When he first came to Stafford the building at Coton Hill was not completed, but early in 1854 he was prepared to receive his first instalment of patients. He very soon won the entire confidence of his committee, and well did he vindicate that confidence. His skill and devotion brought the place rapidly abreast with the foremost of its class; and now that unfinished pile of brick and mortar which they entrusted to him thirty years ago, his dead hand yields back to them, a full and well-organised institution, second to none in the kingdom. Coton Hill is, in part, a charitable institution, and Charity herself could not have chosen a kinder hand to dispense her delicate and, in such association, her necessarily secret succour than that of Dr. Hewson. He had for many years a most able, devoted, and considerate coadjutor in his wife. He never thoroughly rallied after the shock of her illness and death, which happened about three years ago, but gradually gave way before the inroad of the disease which finally proved fatal to him. He bore the lassitude and utter helplessness of the closing weeks of his life with much placid and often cheerful resignation, and at the last he passed very peacefully away. Dr. Hewson was one of the most genial, generous, and open-hearted of men, and inspired all who were conversant with him with no common degree of attachment to him. He possessed in a wonderful manner the real, though often unconscious, confidence of those under his charge; and if a sympathy which never faltered under the hardening influence of constant familiarity with one of the saddest and most inscrutable of human maladies deserved such confidence, well was he worthy of it.—"The Staffordshire Advertiser," Nov. 19th, 1883.

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WILLIAM HENRY PARSEY, M.D., B.A. LOND., F.R.C.P. LOND.

At the County Lunatic Asylum, Hatton, near Warwick, on the 10th of Jan. last, died Dr. W. H. Parsey, for more than thirty years the Medical Superintendent of that Institution. During his superintendency the asylum had doubled or trebled in numbers and size, notably by the erection, some thirteen years ago, as an annexe to the lunatic asylum, of a large separate building for the reception of the idiot and imbecile poor of the county.

Dr. Parsey held the degree of M.D. of the University of London, the Fellow-

ship of the Royal College of Physicians, London; and in 1876 was President of the Medico-Psychological Association, and gave an address at its annual meeting. Dealing with the question of the provision for the insane poor, and offering several important suggestions and reasonings in support, his Presidential Address will long be remembered by those who heard or read it.

To one who had the good fortune to work under him for a time, it is a sad privilege to have the opportunity of writing a few words of him by whose death our Association now suffers a heavy loss.

Dr. Parsey's scientific acquirements were of a high order. When a student, and in early professional life, he laid the foundations of, and built up, a wide and accurate knowledge of his profession; he maintained this throughout life by careful reading and observation, and by a deep interest in, and use of all the advances of medical science. But his tone of mind was judicial. He did not too hastily adopt any new theory or method of practice, but carefully tested it by comparison with the established in science, and by practical trial. Selecting the best in newer and older, he combined and harmonized them in a body of sound scientific knowledge. That he did not place much on permanent record in the literature of the subject in which he was so well skilled, was a loss to all his contemporaries. But he was always ready to impart to his professional brethren the results and teachings of his experience. In pathology his interest was lively; he was shrewd and accurate in diagnosis, quick and skilful to devise and apply remedial measures.

Similar high qualities of mind were evinced also by Dr. Parsey in his administrative functions. The long and successful management of the large asylum in which he passed most of his professional life is evidence of this. And what was true here of the general was true of the particular also; for in dealing with details he was ever of ready resource, skilful in adaptation, judicious in selection.

With his patients, his relations were of a cordial nature, his kindness and goodness of heart conspicuous; and great were his forbearance and tact in dealing with many difficult cases, and never-wearying his thoughtfulness and assiduity in making provision for their better interests and care and cure.

To those who worked under him in any capacity he showed a generous kindness and benevolence of disposition, mingled with a firmness, which made his rule at once successful and agreeable. A considerate or indulgent bearing towards the various members of the staff, however, never relaxed into looseness of control, or permitted of carelessness in duty.

He will long live in the memories and affections of all those who were privileged to know him. His friendships were intimate and cordial. They who knew him best loved him best.

This is scarcely the place to dwell upon his family relations. Yet it is permissible to say how loving and tender were the ties that bound him, in life, to the wife, the daughter, and the son, now left to deplore his loss.

W. J. M.

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#### DR. THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE.

The long and honourable career of this distinguished mental physician—an Honorary Member of our Association—has at last been brought to a close, and, appropriately, on the spot where he has so long laboured.

The proper place for man to die  
Is where man works for man.

It is melancholy to think that we shall no more receive the familiar Annual Report which, with such undeviating regularity made its appearance year after year. These reports were a true reflex of the unceasing care, the unflagging zeal, and the stern devotion to duty which for nearly forty-four years marked the cha-