

## Obituary Notices.

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DR. C. J. SHAW (1874-1939).

CHARLES JOHN SHAW was a typical son of the Scottish soil. Born and brought up on a farm in Glenshee, he retained through life a healthy communion with nature, a simple and reliable understanding of his fellow men, and a frankness and nobility of presence with that confidence and insight which comes from looking to the hills.

The preparatory years of education were spent at the local school. He then went to the High School at Dundee where he remained till he was sixteen. Family interests rendered it expedient that he should return home, where for eight years he worked on the farm, devoting his attention mainly to the breeding of black-faced sheep. When the farm was given up he had to look for a new path in life. On the suggestion of his brother-in-law, Dr. Lunan, a very wise and far-seeing man, he decided to enter the medical profession, and in 1898 he matriculated in the University of Edinburgh. In the course of a distinguished undergraduate career, marked by seven gold medals, he imbibed the spirit of his alma mater and always referred to her in terms of affection and pride. He enjoyed the much coveted honour of being Senior President of the Royal Medical Society.

After graduation he was appointed resident House Physician by Prof. Greenfield, and at the end of this period he spent a few months in general practice in Galashiels. On the advice of Prof. Chiene he returned to Edinburgh, where he was resident House Surgeon in the Gynæcological Wards under the charge of Prof. Berry Hart. It was during the term of this office that he met with an accident which had a determining influence on his future. He himself had already envisaged his prospects in the field of surgery, but these ambitions were not to be realized. In the post-mortem examination of a case of puerperal fever he pricked his finger, with the result that septicæmia set in. For weeks he lay on the edge of death and his hand was saved only to remain useless.

This impairment involved the choice of a future consistent with the limitations which it imposed. While convalescing in Blairgowrie he paid a visit to Dr. Bruce at Murthly with an introduction from Mr. John Wheeler Dowden, Surgeon, Edinburgh, and as soon as he had sufficiently recovered he joined the staff there. Psychiatry at that time in this country was no barren territory for doubtful enterprise. It had already been illuminated and cultivated for some generations by men of rare vision and capacity for action. England was enjoying the fruits of the practical outlook inspired by the humane ideals of the Tukes, and was setting an example in the work and teaching of Maudsley,

Mott and Bevan Lewis. Scotland did not lag behind. Clouston, Campbell Clark, John Macpherson and Ford Robertson were all in the Scottish movement which was assuring better and more intelligent nursing, progress in the scientific study of disease and a more comprehensive grasp of the individual and social implications of mental disorder and defect. It was to this stimulating and interesting sphere of professional activity that, in 1904, Shaw was introduced by Bruce, himself a disciple of Clouston, engaged in research, and a driving force in everything that pertained to the advancement of psychiatry.

He remained at Murthly for two years, where he wrote his thesis for a M.D. degree, which was conferred with a gold medal.

Following shorter periods of residence in the Royal Asylums at Montrose and in Glasgow, he was chosen, in 1908, to be Physician-Superintendent of the Argyshire Asylum at Lochgilphead. This was a post and place in accord with his disposition and natural feeling. Responsibility for administration and for the welfare of others in the bracing atmosphere of mountain, loch and glen were attuned to the experience of his youth. He was happy in the friendship and confidence of the members of his Board, and when, after six years, he left to go to Montrose he had the satisfaction of taking with him and leaving behind grateful memories of his time in the Highlands of the West.

The early years at Montrose were spent under the strain of war conditions, when, practically single-handed, he did all the medical work of the asylum in addition to the administrative duties which fell to his lot. This did not deter him from setting about to develop the resources of the institution and to bring it to that high state of efficiency in which he left it in 1937. This long period of service was marked by a singleness of purpose which had in view the remedial care and comfort of those to whom he was endeared by devoted personal attention. A charm of kindly personality combined with an interest in all forms of treatment and a practical outlook on administration enabled him to make the Royal Asylum of Montrose what it now is. Behind it all was an abiding faith in the things hoped for and not seen, and there could be no more fitting tribute to his memory than the Shaw Memorial Chapel which now stands in Sunnyside.

It is not surprising that his personal qualities and professional attainments were recognized outside the immediate ambit of his daily work. In 1933 he was elected Chairman of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, an honour which symbolized the esteem of his colleagues, and of which he was justly proud. What seemed, however, to give him the greatest joy in life and to shed a ray of sunshine on the darker days of a lingering illness were the associations with more intimate friends. Some of these he had formed in earlier years and were maintained in correspondence with such distant parts as America and India. Others arose in the staff, an outcome of the mutual trust, regard and affection which prevailed in the circuit of the common task. Still others could be traced to the days of the war, when his

house was a centre of hospitality for soldiers stationed in the neighbourhood. Some of the friendships formed then remained to the end.

The second tragedy of his life occurred in the summer of 1937, a few months before his retiral, when he became afflicted with heart disease. After a long and arduous struggle he could well look back with satisfaction on what he had accomplished and was entitled to look forward to a peace and freedom in which he might indulge the sporting instinct with which he was endowed and the interest in national history which he had cultivated. Nature, however, had determined otherwise. Deprived of physical energy he tried in vain to lead the life that appealed to his tastes. Even moderate exertion was beyond his strength. Sustained by a fortitude which stood him in good stead in the battle of life, he bore with resignation the trials of a suffering illness and passed away on June 2, 1939.

In the sombre atmosphere of the hills he loved so well his remains were laid to rest beside the graves of his fathers in the Spittal of Glenshee. His name will remain at the scene of his labour at Hillside, and those who knew him well will cherish the memory of a fine nature untarnished by selfishness or petty jealousy, courageous in adversity and shedding a glow of happiness and serenity on those around him. He was truly a man whom to know was to love and to honour.

IVY MACKENZIE.

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LIEUT.-COL. THOMAS EDWARD KNOWLES STANSFIELD,  
C.B.E., M.B.EDIN. (LATE R.A.M.C.).

ALTHOUGH it is some eighteen years since Col. Stansfield retired from the practice of his profession and for more than half of that time he had lived abroad, the force of his enthusiasm and work is by no means spent. Not a few of the present-day arrangements for treatment in mental hospitals in this country directly or indirectly owe their origin to his administrative genius; some were devised by him and others, which either had been suggested to him or which he had observed abroad and whose importance he had been quick to see, owe their adoption, secured sometimes in the face of opposition and misunderstanding, to the forcefulness of his drive and to a strength and tenacity of purpose and decision which to the end were characteristic of him.

It therefore is only fitting that in recording his death, which, after some months of illness, took place in Paris, on February 19, 1939, some memories of his work should be revived, not only in justice to his efforts, but because they won for themselves a definite place in the history of psychological medicine.

Stansfield's decision to enter the medical profession was taken later than is usual. Indeed, it is not certain what studies, arts or science, he pursued during the one year (1884-5) he spent at Owen's College, Manchester, before