

who had been intimately acquainted with Nasse from early life, repeatedly endeavoured to make him see this, and to limit his duties, but in vain. When, at a visit last autumn, he had hoped to be more successful, it was too late; the heart and the blood-vessels had commenced to give way, and an apparently trifling traumatic lesion of one of the great toes led to a kind of senile gangrene.

Werner Nasse presented a remarkable instance of what some would call inheritance of talent from his highly gifted father and mother, the more so as his three brothers are all equally distinguished in other spheres of life, and as his three sisters *mutatis mutandis* were the same. In reality, however, inheritance in this family as in others played only a secondary part, compared with the careful early training and with the stimulus of example which one member of the family gave to the other.

H. W.

ALFRED EVERLEY TAYLOR, L.B.C.P., L.R.C.S.

It is with much regret that we record in our obituary the death of Mr. Alfred Everley Taylor, Senior Assistant Medical Officer of the County Asylum, Stafford, which occurred on March 30th, under circumstances peculiarly sad. His name must be added to the not inconsiderable list of asylum medical officers who have died in harness, and have been prematurely cut off as the direct result of disease or injury obtained in the discharge of their duty.

Mr. Taylor, who was the youngest son of the late Mr. William Taylor, of Scarborough, a well-known and highly esteemed member of the medical profession, had nearly completed his thirtieth year. He was educated at St. Mary's Hospital, qualified in 1883, and had been for the past four and a half years an Assistant Medical Officer at the County Asylum, Stafford. In the course of his brief career he shaped his conduct by an unflinching sense of duty, and never spared himself in the discharge of his work. Indeed, his thoroughness and devotion to work may be said to have cost him his life, the fatal illness being an attack of acute septicæmia resulting from pricking his finger slightly with the scalpel while making a post-mortem examination of the body of a patient who had died from acute laryngitis and pneumonia.

Mr. Taylor was of a literary turn and accomplished in his vocation, though he never contributed to medical literature. He was an ideal asylum physician, conscientious in his work, enthusiastic in his profession, skilled and thoughtful in the medical care of his patients, entering heart and soul into all the amusements and recreations, and playing regularly in the asylum band. His warm-hearted, genial, and thoroughly generous disposition had drawn round him a wide circle of friends, and his premature end has come as a shock to many who, like the writer, had seen him but a short time previously in the enjoyment of robust health. By his death a gifted and promising career has been cut short, and the Stafford Asylum has to mourn the loss of a valuable and highly conscientious medical officer.

JAMES MACLAREN, F.R.C.S.E.

It was with regret and surprise that the news of the death of Mr. James Maclaren was received by his numerous friends. He died at his residence at Larbert on the 25th of March last from pleurisy, after an illness of three days' duration. He died at the comparatively early age of 40, but, though so young

in years, his health had, for a considerable time previous to his death, been very delicate.

Dr. Maclaren was born at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in 1849, and was educated at the High School of Edinburgh, and afterwards at the University of Edinburgh. After qualifying as a medical practitioner he received the appointment of Resident Physician in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. In 1873 Dr. Clouston, who had just then been elected to the post of Physician Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, appointed Mr. Maclaren to the position of Junior Assistant Physician in that asylum. He and Dr. Clouston entered upon their respective duties on the same day.

Psychological research at Morningside was then rising to its zenith, having received a great impetus from the untiring energy and attainments of Dr. Clouston. The enthusiasm thus instilled into the work was catching, and Dr. Maclaren was not behind in contributing papers of much value clinically. It was just at this time that a new tide of reform was beginning to manifest itself in Scotch lunacy by the reconstruction and remodelling of asylums, and by more liberal and humane methods in the treatment of patients.

In Dr. Maclaren's case the many changes carried out at Morningside were not thrown away upon him or forgotten. When, in 1876, he was appointed to the post of Superintendent of the Stirling District Asylum, he found that the buildings were too small to accommodate the increased and increasing number of patients. With a boldness which afterwards redounded to his credit he removed all corridors and partitions within the buildings, which widened the wards from outer wall to outer wall. The effect of this change was such that all communication from the wards to the dining hall and the administrative part of the asylum was through the wards themselves.

The disadvantages arising from such an arrangement were soon lost sight of in the increased space and freedom afforded to the patients.

In 1882 he was called upon to assist in erecting an adjunct to the present asylum, to contain about 150 patients. This is a modern and most useful building, and combines comfort and economy in its construction.

In his own neighbourhood Dr. Maclaren was very well known and much esteemed. His services were much in demand in the way of presiding at public meetings and in giving addresses. He was a fluent, graceful, and cultured speaker. He was elected the first President of the Stirling Branch of the British Medical Association, which was formed this year.

He contributed many papers to the Medical Journals, chiefly on Chorea, Impulsive Insanity, Epilepsy and Insanity, Infantile Paralysis, and General Paralysis.

He leaves behind him a widow and two young daughters.

COMMISSIONER IN LUNACY.

In consequence of the resignation of Dr. Rhys Williams from failing health a vacancy occurred in May in the Lunacy Commission. We cannot allow the occasion to pass without tendering to Dr. Williams our sympathy in his enforced retirement from a post which he has filled in a manner so satisfactory both to the medical officers of asylums and to those having charge of single patients. His successor is Dr. Thomas Clifford Allbutt, F.R.S., M.A., LL.D., J.P. for West Riding of Yorkshire, Consulting Physician to the Leeds General Infirmary.
