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MAURICE HAMBLIN SMITH.

The death of Dr. Maurice Hamblin Smith at Oxford on April 15 will be deeply regretted by a large number of friends, by none more than by his colleagues in the Prison Service and by those who worked with him for this Journal. Born May 1, 1870, the son of Hamblin Smith, the Cambridge tutor, he took a Cambridge degree in mathematics, and afterwards entered Guy's Hospital, whence he qualified in 1896. After three years in private practice, and as Certifying Factory Surgeon at Silverdale, Staffordshire, he decided to devote himself entirely to official work. He joined the prison medical service in December, 1899, and served successively at Manchester, Wandsworth, Dartmoor, Stafford and Portland prisons. Meanwhile, the increasing importance of the medical work at Birmingham Prison, in connection with prisoners awaiting trial, decided the Prison Commissioners, in 1920, to send a medical officer there with special knowledge of mental diseases and Hamblin Smith was selected for the post, and remained there until his retirement in 1933. In a very short time he gained the confidence of the Judicial Authorities before whom he gave evidence in the Criminal Courts, and his clinical acumen, wide experience and sound judgment were invaluable assets in determining with accuracy the mental conditions of persons accused of crime. His opinion in the difficult and intricate problems connected with criminal responsibility was relied upon by the Prison Commissioners as well as by the Courts, and his concise and complete reports were models of what a medico-legal report should be. He had under his supervision not only the prisoners from the Birmingham area, but also those sent from outlying prisons for mental observation under a scheme introduced by the Prison Commissioners in 1924. He also visited adjacent prisons from time to time to consult with the medical officers in capital cases.

As a colleague Hamblin Smith was firm, loyal and understanding, jealous of the honour of his profession and of the integrity of the Prison Medical Service,

which he loved so well. He maintained in all his undertakings the highest traditions of the British Civil Service.

In his annual reports, as well as in his unofficial publications, Hamblin Smith insisted that the treatment of the offender was entirely a psychological problem, and that every case required individual investigation and consideration. He stated in his annual report of 1923 that many who were then responsible for the success of the probation system appeared to be quite unaware that the problem had any psychological aspect, and that attempts were made to evade the issue by the assertion that psychologists were not agreed among themselves. He considered that these disagreements were less serious than the opponents of psychology declared, and that far from being subjects for reproach they were hopeful and healthy signs. But he ignored the fact that the acute differences among psychologists regarding fundamental problems tended to bring science and psychology into disrepute amongst those he criticized. He referred also in this report to the abnormal mental conditions, which although not yet recognized by the law, were potent factors in the production of crime, and urged that institutions should be provided for their treatment. He had in mind not only cases of mental conflict and repression, but those where anti-social conduct was attributable to a previous attack of encephalitis lethargica. Since then the Mental Deficiency Act of 1927 has enabled provision to be made for the majority of the latter, and the extent to which psychological treatment can be used in combating crime is under investigation at the present time.

Hamblin Smith was a convinced determinist and an omnivorous reader of philosophy and speculative psychology, but he retained a clear distinction between assumptions and facts, and his theoretical inclinations never obtruded in his daily duties. He rightly repudiated the view that he was unduly lenient to the offender ; he was, in fact, a realist and not a sentimentalist, and was a strong advocate of indefinite detention in the interests of those who cannot or will not conform to the demands of society as well as in the interests of society itself.

He contributed several papers to this Journal, to the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, and to the *Journal of the Howard League of Penal Reform*. He read an interesting paper on "Double and Multiple Personality" at the Prison Medical Officers' Conference in 1932. His book *The Psychology of the Criminal*, published in 1922, emphasized the importance of the scientific approach to criminal problems. A smaller book on prisons, published in 1934, was a brief exposition of the main theories of punishment, and an historical outline of the growth of our present prison system. In all his writings a clear train of thought was lucidly expressed and temperately presented ; he blunted criticism by the courage of his opinions, the sincerity of his purpose, and a due appreciation of the views of others. He was Lecturer on Criminology at Birmingham University and at Bethlem Royal Hospital, and those who were privileged

to attend his lectures have cause to remember the lucid and convincing way in which the case for a psychological view of delinquency was put before them.

For many years Hamblin Smith contributed the "Medico-Legal Notes" to the *Journal of Mental Science*, and he was also the author of many reviews of books on psychological, philosophical and sociological subjects. In 1931 he became one of the Editors of the Journal, to which after his retirement he devoted much of his time. His appointment strengthened the editorial staff at a time of stress, and his younger colleagues especially received from him generous support.

After his retirement he lived at Oxford, where he acted as honorary physician to the Education Clinic. He had married in 1897, and had a son and daughter. Shortly after his retirement his son, an Assistant Commissioner in Sierra Leone, died suddenly from pneumonia, and his wife died last year after a long and painful illness. These bereavements disrupted an exceptionally happy family life, and saddened the years which he had hoped to pass in quiet enjoyment.

In his last illness he continued his work for the Journal one may say to the end, for the manuscript of his Medico-Legal Note on "R. V. Mortimer", which appeared in our last issue, shows that the last paragraphs were written with great difficulty, very shortly before his death.

Hamblin Smith's connection with the Prison Service coincided with a period of steady and substantial progress in prison medical administration, and in the scientific approach to crime. We may hope that he was consoled in these later days by the knowledge that he contributed his best always towards these ends.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

A. WALK.

IVAN PETROVITCH PAVLOV.

ON December 24, 1927, there died Vladimir Michailovitch Bechterev, and now, eight years later, on February 27, 1936, the world of physiology has lost Ivan Petrovitch Pavlov. What great names, Bechterev and Pavlov, and what a tremendous loss to the study of the physiology of the nervous system!

Pavlov was born at Riazhan, near Moscow, on September 26, 1849. His father was a poor parish priest. He was the eldest of three sons. One of his brothers became an assistant to Mendelejev, the Russian chemist.

He was at first intended for the Church, and entered the Greek Catholic school and later the theological seminary. In 1870 he entered St. Petersburg University, where he himself came under Mendelejev. He made physiology his chief subject, and was taught by von Cyon and Sechnov. He collaborated with Afanassiev in research on the pancreatic nerves. He spent most of his time on physiology and failed his examination in medicine. While still a