

mouth in 1889. He was a well-known Freemason, being a member of the Phoenix Lodge and the Chapter of Friendship No. 257, Past Master of the United Brothers Lodge No. 1069 and P.S.G.D. of the Hants Provincial Grand Lodge.

Dr. Mumby qualified from University College in 1879 as M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.S.A.Lond., and as M.D.Aberdeen in 1881. After a period of general practice he took the D.P.H.Cambridge in 1885, and was then appointed Medical Officer of Health for Portsmouth. He held that post for twelve years with so much credit and success that he became the recipient of a presentation from the Town Council "In recognition of their admiration for his services." In 1896 he was chosen to succeed Dr. Bland as Medical Superintendent of the Borough Asylum. Although without experience of this branch of medical work, he possessed qualities, personal and professional, which well fitted him for the post. Dr. Mumby was a just and upright, kind-hearted and sympathetic man, who enlisted the confidence, respect, and affection of all those with whom he had to deal. He had a faculty for discipline and organisation, an untiring capacity for work, and, with his sound and wide knowledge of medicine, he was quick to utilize any fresh scientific means of diagnosis and treatment. His appointment led to a progressive marked improvement in the institution under his care. He carried out quietly and effectively improvements in the appointments of the wards, in the condition of the patients and in the means for their care and treatment, and in the standard, smartness, and efficiency of the staff. Latterly, he was actively concerned in the planning of new blocks and detached villas for private and other patients which have been comparatively recently completed, equipped, and occupied, and constitute a valuable addition to the means of treatment of the mentally afflicted in the district. Dr. Mumby became a member of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1897, took very great interest in the teaching and training of the nursing staff, and freely devoted time and patience, year after year, in conducting examinations in first aid, general and mental nursing, to help neighbouring superintendents.

A number of official bodies were represented at the large gathering on May 9th in the Asylum Chapel, where the first part of the funeral service was held, after which the remains were conveyed to Woking for cremation. The Chaplain, in his moving address, paid a warm tribute to Dr. Mumby's performance of his duty as Medical Superintendent, and admirably summarised his work in these simple words: "He was a perfect master, a good servant, and a true friend."

JAMES NEIL, M.D.Aberd.

We regret to record the death of James Neil, M.D., Medical Superintendent of the Warneford Asylum, Oxford, and a member of the Association since 1880, which took place in a London nursing home on June 13th. Dr. Neil had undergone an operation for duodenal ulcer, which had been completely successful, but he succumbed to an intercurrent affection.

James Neil was the son of the Rev. Robert Neil of Glengairm, where he was born in 1848. He was educated at Glengairm, and entered Aberdeen University in 1873. He there took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine in 1877, and four years later that of Doctor of Medicine. In 1877, he became assistant physician to the Royal Asylum, Aberdeen, and in 1878, assistant medical officer to the Cheshire County Asylum at Macclesfield, a post which he held for five years. Subsequently he was assistant medical officer to the Borough Asylum at Portsmouth. In 1887 he went to the Warneford Mental Hospital as assistant medical officer, and became superintendent in 1897.

During his administration of this institution, many improvements have been carried through, the last of which was a new block of buildings, now almost completed, to be used for the provision of better accommodation for the nursing staff.

Dr. Neil was the author of several valuable contributions to the literature of mental diseases. In dealing with cases of mental disease, he combined in a peculiarly fortunate way a keen, far-sighted judgment, a large-minded charity, and a just appreciation of the necessity for business methods in administration. He was thus admirably suited to the post he held, and he won in the fullest degree the respect of the governors of the Warneford Hospital, the staff, and the patients under his charge.

He was generally the consultant of the district on difficult cases of incipient mental diseases, and at such times, his counsel was always helpful.

He preserved a keen interest in two recreations—firstly in Scottish history, and secondly in fly-fishing. He was the author of a biography, *Ian Roy of Skellater*, a Scottish soldier of fortune, and he never visited Scotland without enlarging his knowledge of bygone heroes of his country. One of his chief delights was in graveyard inscriptions.

In those who had the benefit of his acquaintance, he inspired a feeling of respect and affection which will long remain. Though long resident in England, he preserved, both in manner and in mind, the distinctive attributes of the Scot, a fact which served to endear him to both his Scottish and English friends. As a member of a small debating club, consisting of medical men, to which Dr. Neil belonged, the writer preserves a lively recollection of his many speeches; no matter what the subject, Dr. Neil always spoke with a fulness of knowledge and a kindly humour.

He leaves a widow, with whom the greatest sympathy is felt in her loss.

Dr. C. Williams, Acting Medical Superintendent of the Warneford Hospital, writes: "He was an exceptionally good as well as clever man, and as an administrator, business man, and master of method I never met his equal. By his unceasing energy, and untiring devotion to its interests he brought the institution over which he presided to the highest pitch of perfection in every department, and his loss is a most serious one, and, on account of his constant thought for the comfort and happiness of those around him, is deplored by all connected with it. By no one, however, is his death more deeply deplored than the writer of these lines, who was associated with him for many hours daily for the last twelve months of his working life, and who not only learnt much from him, but also to love him for his genial, kindly nature, and especially for his numerous acts of consideration and kindness to him personally."

Dr. Chas. A. Mercier writes: "Permit me to lay upon the grave of my friend Dr. Neil a wreath of respect and affection. He belonged to a nation among whom I am privileged to count many intimate friends, and he had a full measure of the quality—humour, which we southrons pretend they do not possess, besides others that we cannot pretend to deny to them—thoroughness, sound sense, business ability, and professional skill. I have sent many patients to his care, have often visited them at the Warneford, and can speak from personal knowledge of his unwearied kindness to them, often reciprocated by suspicion and abuse, and of the constant solicitude with which he worked and hoped, even in very unpromising cases. His crowning merit was that he never attempted to divert the purpose of the founder of the Warneford, to afford treatment and care on the most moderate terms—in a large proportion of his cases on charitable terms—to patients of the educated classes. He never angled for patients who could pay high fees, nor did he attempt to substitute an impressive but uncomfortable magnificence for the solid homeliness and comfort of the Warneford. When we think of the number of patients that came under his care, of the atmosphere of tranquility and goodwill that he maintained around him, and of the help that so many found in reliance on his strong character and sound judgment, we can form some estimate of the good that can be done in a quiet and unobtrusive life. He found his appropriate field of activity; he laboured in it with unremitting diligence; he won the respect and regard of all around him; his life, if it was unambitious, was useful, fruitful, and happy. Who could wish more to be said of himself?"—(Abstracts from the *British Medical Journal*, June 27th and July 4th.)

APPOINTMENTS.

Dudley, Francis, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M.Irel., Medical Superintendent at the Cornwall County Asylum, Bodmin.

Neill, A. W., M.D., Ch.B.Edin., Physician-Superintendent of Warneford Asylum, Oxford.

Pirrie, R. Reid, M.D., Visiting Medical Officer to the Northern Counties Joint Poor-Law Colony for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptics, Prudoe Hall, Northumberland.

Potts, W. A., M.A., M.D., Medical Officer to the Birmingham Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective.

Thomas, William Rees, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P.Lond., Medical Superintendent of the State Institution for Mental Defectives at Moss Side, Liverpool.