

had been broken by service in the South African war. This led to his deciding to retire from active work. With his accustomed energy and decision he had commenced building a house at Hythe, in Kent, to which he intended to remove. His fatal illness pathetically anticipated this intention.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.

On the 16th of December there passed beyond a well-known member of our Association, Dr. Alexander Robertson, a man esteemed and beloved by all who knew him, and most so by those who knew him best.

Born at Rutherglen, he took the degree of M.D. at the Glasgow University in 1855, and after filling the post of House Surgeon to the Glasgow Infirmary he became Assistant Physician to the Royal Asylum at Gartnavel. From this time he devoted much attention to the study of nervous and mental diseases. After leaving Gartnavel he became Superintendent of the City Parochial Hospital and Asylum in Glasgow, an office by no means easy to fill. Here he soon began to earn distinction by his observations on insanity, which were many and various, embracing diagnosis, pathology, and treatment. At the International Medical Congress at London in 1881, Dr. Robertson's papers on "Percussion of the Skull" and on "Unilateral Hallucinations" were pronounced the best contributions that came from the north.

Dr. Robertson's mind was of too comprehensive a character to suffer him to remain within the bounds of a specialty. At the Parochial Hospital he always had wards for ordinary patients; and when he retired from this situation about twenty years ago he was appointed Visiting Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. After lecturing for some years on insanity he was in 1889 appointed Professor of the Practice of Medicine in St. Mungo's College. As a teacher he was much liked by the students, and he was very successful in imbuing them with a love of the healing art. While skilful both in diagnosis and pathology Dr. Robertson gave his best attention to therapeutics. He resigned his professorship about nine years ago, but still remained a consultant in Glasgow, where his advice was especially sought in nervous diseases and in insanity. He remained to the last Consulting Physician to the District Lunacy Board and Physician to the Old Men's and Old Women's Home. Dr. Robertson was president of various medical societies in Glasgow, and Examiner for the triple qualification.

In the spring of 1901 I went with Dr. Robertson to Italy, where his inexhaustible good humour, genial sense of enjoyment, and interest in history and art made him a most agreeable companion. During the leaves which he managed to obtain he travelled widely. He twice crossed the Atlantic, and visited Syria and most countries of the continent of Europe.

In 1905 he was much gratified by a dinner given to him at Edinburgh by the Scottish Branch of the Medico-Psychological Association to signalise the fiftieth year of his medical work.

Dr. Robertson had a dignified benignity of manner; in examining a patient, as in everything else, he showed the patience and thoroughness of all his mental operations. When he got up to speak at a meeting one might be sure that he would not stop till he had made a full sweep of the subject. He was the author of numerous papers in various medical journals. A good specimen of his comprehensive method of dealing with a subject may be studied in his article on "Post-Apoplectic Insanity" in Tuke's 'Dictionary of Psychological Medicine.' He also wrote the section of insanity for Finlayson's 'Clinical Manual for the Study of Medicine.' For the last few years Dr. Robertson was in weak health; but he continued to attend to his professional duties till about a fortnight before his death from an attack of heart failure. He had reached his seventy-fifth year. He leaves behind him two sons (who both entered the medical profession and did duty in the South African war) and one daughter, who is married.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.