

OBITUARY.

DR. EDWARD DANIEL O'NEILL.

By the death on January 12th of Dr. Edward Daniel O'Neill the Asylum Service of Ireland has lost one of its most capable administrators. His symptoms did not appear to be of serious import until a comparatively short time before his demise. His health, however, had been a good deal impaired for some time past, and he suffered more or less from chronic insomnia and gouty attacks. He was sixty-three years of age, and had been for twenty-six years in charge of the Limerick District Asylum, in which capacity he had won the confidence and esteem of his Committee of Management, of the Inspectors, and of the public generally. His medical education he obtained in the Carmichael School of Medicine in Dublin, where he took the diplomas of L.R.C.S. (1872), L.R.C.P. (1878), and M.R.C.P.I. (1884). He was for five years (1881-1886) Assistant Medical Officer at the Richmond Asylum, Dublin, and from there was promoted to be Medical Superintendent of Castlebar Asylum, where he remained for four years, and in 1890 he succeeded in obtaining the similar but more important post in Limerick Asylum. Dr. O'Neill took a warm interest in the welfare of his patients, whom he treated with invariable kindness and consideration. His courtesy towards all with whom he had to do will be a grateful reminiscence in the minds of many. He was a representative member of the Council of the Association, and attended the Quarterly Meeting in London in November last. His too early removal has occasioned the deepest regret to his colleagues in Ireland, and indeed to everyone who had the pleasure of knowing and appreciating his genial personality.

LIEUTENANT EDGAR FAULKS, R.A.M.C.

The speciality has sustained a loss by the death of Lieutenant Edgar Faulks, R.A.M.C., late Senior Assistant Medical Officer of the London County Asylum, Bexley, which took place on September 26th last whilst he was dressing a wounded man in the fighting line near Loos in France.

Dr. Faulks, who was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Faulks, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, was 38 years of age, and received his medical education at Guy's Hospital, where he held a number of resident appointments, and during which time he was President of the Residents' Club. He was appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer at Bexley, and during eleven years' service there he steadily rose, and was for the latter five years Senior Assistant Medical Officer. He was a very keen student, and took a deep interest in all new developments in the treatment, care, and housing of the insane. He was a very able clinician, and his opinion, owing to his well-balanced judgment, was always much sought by his colleagues. He had a very delightful personality, and entered very fully into the life of the Institution.

A special Memorial Service was held in the Asylum Church on the Sunday following the news of his death. Beloved alike by his colleagues and by the patients and staff, the death of Dr. Edward Faulks has left to all who knew him a deep sense of personal bereavement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the President and the Members of the "Medico-Psychological Association."

GENTLEMEN,—I take the liberty of soliciting your kind support in the interests of juvenile defectives in Belgium, and more especially in the Province of Brabant. This question was in a fair way of being solved at the time of the outbreak of the war, and the provincial authorities of Brabant had decided to erect an institution for the "feeble-minded" at Waterloo. The construction of this establishment had begun when the war broke out, and all the operations were stopped.

It is to be feared, and news from Belgium confirm this apprehension, that the heavy expenses that our country will ultimately have to meet will be a pretext for

abandoning a number of works and reforms which up till the eve of the war were thought to be absolutely indispensable. It is evident that we shall have urgent duties to discharge towards our compatriots who are victims of the war, and especially as regards our orphans and cripples. But, are we on that account to give up the sick and infirm, the old, the insane, and abnormal. To put the question is to solve it. We could not consent to such a retrograde course of action, resigning ourselves to a barbarism almost as horrible as that which our unscrupulous enemies have inaugurated during this war. Philanthropists and savants who have interested themselves in "abnormal childhood" in all civilised countries will lend an ear to the appeal which I am making now in favour of the abnormals in Belgium, and after reading these few lines will promise help and advice to the Belgians who have taken an especial interest in this subject, and will direct their thoughts in particular to the very interesting work in the Province of Brabant.

I hope to interest such persons by rapidly enumerating the efforts which have been made in Belgium to help "deficient children." It was about the year 1898 that the movement in favour of defectives started. At that time a regular medico-educational campaign in primary instruction began in the town of Brussels, in favour of the separation of deficient from normal pupils. Later on classes, and a school of special instruction were instituted. Soon afterwards the town of Antwerp followed suit. And since then these schools and classes have proved a very fruitful field of work for doctors and teachers. A few years later the town of Gand started a wonderful school of instruction for the weak-minded, and towards 1912 and 1913 the town of Liège, in its turn, took up the study of this question. Thanks to these special schools and classes some new educational methods have been discovered, which, in their turn, proved of value even in the case of normal children. Since 1906 doctors and teachers in Brussels applied themselves to estimating the mental capacity of the scholars with the help of the tests methods of De Sanctis and Binet. During this time the Society for the Protection of Abnormal Childhood in Belgium continued its unwearied propagandist efforts. It addressed itself to the communal, provincial, and governmental authorities without being discouraged by the numerous rebuffs to which it had to submit, due to ignorance of the importance of the subject. But, thanks to its repeated efforts, the said Society succeeded in giving effect to its views. In the new law dealing with juvenile crime the existence of abnormal children was noted, and the attention of judges was especially called thereto.

In 1901, the Society for the Protection of Abnormal Childhood presented a plan of a "farm-school" to the Society of Martyr Children. But it was not till 1909 that this project was restarted, and this time submitted to the provincial authorities of Brabant. The latter agreed to establish a "farm-school" at Waterloo. The plans were completed in 1913, and the erection of an institution for 240 defectives was commenced in 1914. The war stopped all work. The institution, when completed, was to comprise four pavilions on separate floors, a farm, a laundry, a kitchen, offices of administration, workshops, a gymnasium, a lazaretto, and an infirmary; and land to the extent of 15 hectares (about 2½ acres) was reserved for cultivation. During this time the Province of Brabant instituted a temporary course for the instructors desirous of specialising in the subject. The courses were inaugurated in January, 1914, and came to an end some weeks before the war. The examinations were to have taken place in October, 1914.

The Province of Brabant, moreover, provided a special subsidy to be given to each communal or free school for the maintenance of classes for giving instruction to backward or deficient children. And the complete and harmonious development of a system of aid for children mentally afflicted was anticipated.

For the sake of those dour souls who repeatedly tell us that more is done for the abnormal than for the normal, we must add that the Province of Brabant encourages professional teaching, and that it has instituted schools for teachers in baking and carpentry, in agriculture and horticulture, normal schools for teachers, etc. That is to say, the resources of the leading province of Belgium were devoted to works which were the most useful to the nation and to humanity.

All these excellent plans are upset. The Belgian provinces and communes are systematically ruined by an unscrupulous enemy, who has levied taxes as exorbitant as they are illegal (500 million francs), and who at the same time has requisitioned, without paying for them, a quantity of things, stores, machinery, and

alimentary substances. Belgium will then be without any resources whatever after the war. Assuredly, the enemy who has pillaged and stolen will have to make restitution. But even if he wanted to, he would be incapable of doing so, seeing that he will have consumed an enormous proportion of what he has taken.

Our hope of "Justice," however, so slow in coming, still remains unshaken. Justice *must* be done, and completely, too. But in the presence of the material ruin of our splendid Flemish and Walloon cities we must not forget our social ruin. Are we going to allow the hygienic, educational, and social works of the finest of our Belgian provinces to perish—Hainault, Brabant, and Liège? Are we going to leave in jeopardy the works of our great cities? This is impossible, for after the war they will be more useful than ever. The splendid school for cripples at Charleroi and the one at Brabant, will they not need to be indefinitely extended in consequence of the war? Will it not be the same with respect to the insane and the feeble-minded?

Besides, is it not the duty of all savants and philanthropists to think about these objects? The favoured ones of fortune whom the war has not only spared, but who have even, thanks to it, found their means increasing, do these not think it their duty to humanity to spend a portion of their revenues on these social schemes in Belgium? Wherever they may be, may their consciences tell these privileged persons, the rich ones, that they cannot enjoy their wealth without remorse, if they have not helped and if they do not continue to give unflagging help to a nation which has been the victim of its own loyalty! Wherever they may be, let learned men also give voice to their conscience and their heart, and claim it as an honour to support these Belgian scientific and social objects both by word and writing. May psychologists, interested in deficient children, be willing to reply to my appeal, and give their support to the efforts being made in the interests of the mentally deficient, and more especially those in connection with the "Farm School" of Waterloo.

I beg to thank, as much in the name of the Society for the Protection of Feeble-minded Children in Belgium as in my own name, the "Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain" if they will accord a favourable reception to this appeal.

M. F. BOULENGER, M.D.Brussels,
Member of the Office of the Society for the Protection of
Abnormal Childhood in Belgium.

Darenth Industrial Colony,
Dartford, Kent,
England.

NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

Nursing Examinations.

Preliminary Monday, May 1st.
Final Monday, May 8th.

Professional Examination Certificate in Psychological Medicine and Gaskell Prize, first week in July.

Essays for Bronze Medal must be sent to Registrar on or before June 14th.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

The next General Meeting will be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Thursday, February 17th, when a paper will be read by George M. Robertson, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin., on "The Employment of Female Nurses in the Male Wards of Mental Hospitals."

Quarterly Meetings: February 17th, 1916; May 16th, 1916.

The Divisional Meetings are proposed as follows:

South-Eastern Division.—April 28th, 1916.

South-Western Division.—April 21st, 1916.

Northern and Midland Division.—April 27th, 1916.

Scottish Division.—March 17th, 1916.

Irish Division.—April 6th, 1916; July 6th, 1916.