

with the calm courage of a good man, and the end came mercifully soon. He died from heart failure on April 20th at the age of seventy-two. To the last he retained unabated interest in the specialty to which his life had been given, and was doing consultation work two months before his death.

Sir John was the son of a banker, was born and educated in Edinburgh, and was a graduate of its University. After increasing his experience by hospital residence and a short period of private practice, he began asylum work under Dr. Skae at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, where he was for several years an Assistant Physician; the late Dr. McCullough, of the Abergavenny Asylum, the late Dr. Young, Professor of Natural History in Glasgow University, Dr. Yellowlees, and Dr. Clouston were among his colleagues there. The work was most congenial to him, alike in its practical and its scientific aspects, and was admirably performed.

In 1862 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Argyllshire Asylum at Lochgilphead, which he organised and opened, and of which he was a most efficient head. He was the first to show—the remote position of the asylum greatly favouring the experiment—that it was possible to dispense with airing courts in a county asylum. Only those who knew the dismal, walled courts of that period, so unlike the pleasant gardens of to-day, can understand how great an advance was thus originated.

In 1870 Dr. Sibbald was appointed Deputy Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland. The duties of that office include the visitation of patients in private dwellings, and he became, after much practical knowledge of its working and its results, an earnest supporter of the "boarding out" system as practised in Scotland.

In 1878, on the death of Sir James Coxe, Dr. Sibbald was appointed Commissioner in Lunacy, and for twenty-one years did solid and admirable work for the insane in Scotland, and earnestly furthered whatever could promote their welfare. His mind was eminently judicial, and he was distinguished by calm and sound judgment, and wise and wide views of every subject. His opinions, once formed, were firmly held and ably defended. He often silenced an eager advocate of change by a single question, showing considerations which had been overlooked or consequences which had been forgotten. His wise and well-considered opinions had always great weight in the counsels of the Commission.

Visits to Gheel and Alt Scherbitz convinced him of the great value of the cottage system of asylum construction, and the county asylums of Aberdeen and Midlothian are monuments of his influence.

Sir John's intercourse with others, whether professional colleagues or friends of patients, was marked by kind and courteous consideration, and his relations with the asylum superintendents were always those which are happily traditional in Scotland. He was no mere inspector, but an honoured friend, who could see and censure faults, but could also see and appreciate merits, who understood the difficulties of asylum work, and was always ready with sympathy and counsel.

In private life Sir John was a genial cultured gentleman, with many intellectual interests, a singularly open mind, strong common-sense, great toleration for others, the highest moral tone, a warm heart, and a happy gift of humour.

On his retiral from office in 1899, by reason of the age limit, he received the honour of knighthood in recognition of his public services, and was presented by his friends and colleagues with his portrait, painted by Sir George Reid, President of the Royal Scottish Academy. The portrait has been admirably reproduced for this JOURNAL, of which Dr. Sibbald was at one time joint editor.

DR. HENRY PUTNAM STEARNS.

We regret to record the death, at the age of seventy-seven, of Dr. Henry Putnam Stearns, an Honorary Member of the Association, which occurred on May 27th, 1905.

He was for over thirty-one years Physician and Superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane at Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., which office he resigned only two months before his death. He was held in the highest regard both personally and professionally in Hartford, and throughout the specialty in America. Dr. Stearns was one of the pioneers in America of the humane treatment of the insane, and the Hartford Retreat became widely known as one of the best institutions in the country. As a specialist and an author Dr. Stearns was in high repute, and he was a Past President of the American Medico-Psychological Association.

Before adopting this specialty, Dr. Stearns was in large private practice in Hartford, but his patriotism compelled him to volunteer for medical service in the Civil War, and he did splendid work throughout it. It is recorded of him that when Medical Director of the Northern Wing of the Army of the Tennessee he converted all the public buildings in the city of Nashville into hospitals for the troops, equipped them suitably, and with the aid of 100 surgeons and 20 clerks, had an average of 10,000 sick and wounded men under his care. At the close of the war he declined a permanent Government appointment which was offered to him, and retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He resumed his practice in Hartford with great success, and on the death of Dr. John S. Butler, was appointed Physician and Superintendent of the Retreat, the duties of which post he discharged admirably for the long period of thirty-one years.

Personally Dr. Stearns was a man of the highest stamp; kind, genial, courteous, high principled, and wise, his friendship was greatly valued by all who enjoyed it. He studied for a year at Edinburgh University, and repeatedly visited this country, where Sir John Sibbald (whose death this JOURNAL also records), Drs. Hack Tuke, Clouston, Urquhart, and Yellowlees were among his friends.

NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

EXAMINATION FOR THE NURSING CERTIFICATE.

Eight hundred and seventy-four candidates applied for admission to the May examination. The following were successful:

Robbin Island.—Males: George Search, William James Benham.

Glamorgan.—Males: Caleb Hiley Bryant, David Davies, John Henry Jones, Samuel William Lloyd, Alick Percy Moore, Robert Summers, Leonard Wilden, Richard Gooding, Edwin Griffiths, Henry Percy Williams, John Calvin Llewellyn, Thomas Owen, Herbert Yeoman. Females: Mary Ellen Tornsey, Ethel Agnes Brown, Margaret Ann David, Edith Maria Printall, Maude Ellen Holley.

Monmouthshire.—Females: Hannah Jane Llewellyn, Gertrude Alice Short, Eva Stephens Ray.

Aberdeen Royal.—Females: Louisa Finlayson, Agnes Yool Brodie, Anne Isabella McLeod, Ethel Adam, Mary Colman, Kathleen Elizabeth Brockie.

Ayr District.—Males: John Carley, William Ross. Females: Margaret McLean, Annie Barrie, Susan Hopkins, Jane Benton, Jane Clark, Jane Taylor.

Crichton Royal.—Males: Alexander Finnie, Alfred Sutton, Roderick Mackenzie, Alexander Brown. Females: Margaret Young, Annie MacIntyre.

Dundee District.—Male: Stewart Methven. Female: Margaret Isabella Anderson.

Edinburgh Royal (Craig House).—Males: William McConnachie, Peter Phillips, William Henry Montgomery McEvoy, Robert James Soper. Females: Jemima Corsie, Elizabeth Margaret Denham, Elizabeth G. MacColm, Mary Sinclair, Mary Rhydero Woodman, Isabella Nicol, Margaret Catherine Ross, Constance Ball, Brinda Traill Skae, Bridget McCabe.

Edinburgh Royal (Morningside).—Males: Thomas Barclay, Douglas Cameron.

Fife and Kinross District.—Males: Henry Hannah, Thomas Melrose, James Neville. Females: Jeannie Comfort, Bessie B. Hutchison, Beatrice Redpath.

Gartloch.—Male: James Lawson Simpson. Females: Jean Wyper Macfarlane, Nellie Crombie, Jeannie Watt Reynolds, Marjory Pratt Tait, Ellen Jane Robertson, Margaret Laurie, Flora Bella Pollock, Mary Jane Gow.

Gartnavel.—Males: Joseph Cruickshank, Robert William Davidson, William Stein. Females: Annie Barclay, Christina Dickson, Mary McLean, Elizabeth Guthrie Currie, Christina McLeod, Mary King, Christina Maccullum, Kathleen Elizabeth Sayer.

Glasgow District, Woodilee.—Males: James Ewan, Samuel Deering, William Kilpatrick. Females: Margaret Ann Gordon Cochrane, Jeannie C. Sinclair, Flora Whyte, Agnes Brownlee Taylor, Agnes Tait, Joanna Anderson Fairley, Edith Mussett, Isabella MacLean, Elsie Barnet Paterson.

Govan District.—Males: James McPherson.