



T. OUTERSON WOOD, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E.

Born April 28, 1843.
Died July 19, 1930.

Ordinary Member since 1869.
President 1905-6.

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A Memoir by Prof. ERNEST W. WHITE, C.B.E., M.B., M.R.C.P.Lond.

As his oldest surviving friend, and one of 52 years standing, it devolves upon me to write the obituary for the *Journal of Mental Science* of Dr. T. Outterson Wood, President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 1905-6, who died on July 19 last at his residence, Lodore, Chelston, Torquay, in his 88th year.

I propose, first, to deal with his early academic life, thence to proceed to his professional attainments, then to give in detail his great interest in the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and to conclude with his personal character and work.

Dr. Wood was born at East Rainton, Durham, on April 28, 1843, received his early education at Keppie's Grammar School, Houghton-le-Spring, and it was at first intended that he should join his uncle, Mr. Ferens, who was one of the most successful agricultural pioneers in New Zealand; but his love was for medicine, and so in due course he became one of the early students of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Medical School, where he obtained several prizes and other marks of distinction. From there he went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and duly qualified as M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1868. He obtained the F.R.C.S.Ed. in 1874, F.R.C.P. Ed. in 1879, M.D.Durh. in 1886, and M.R.C.P.Lond. in 1888. After holding a resident appointment at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, he decided to take up psychiatry as a specialty and became Resident Medical Officer at Dunston Lodge Private Asylum, Newcastle-on-Tyne. This he relinquished to become Assistant Medical Officer at the Kent County Asylum, Barming Heath,

in 1874. In 1876, on the recommendation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Isle of Man Asylum, which post he held until 1883, vacating it to start consulting practice in London. His earliest appointment in London was as Physician to the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, and later on he became Physician to the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases in Welbeck Street. To both of these institutions he was elected Consulting Physician on his retirement.

During his active professional life in London he took a keen interest in the work of the British Medical Association; was a frequent contributor to the editorial columns of the *British Medical Journal*, and in 1909 was President of the Medico-Psychological Section at the Annual Meeting at Belfast. In 1874 he was Lecturer and Examiner in Psychological Medicine at the Durham University Medical College, and in 1897 President of the Durham University Medical Graduates' Association; and about that time he became a Founder and First Secretary of the Durham University Lodge of Freemasons. His publications related chiefly to Lunacy Law, for which he wrote the sections in Tuke's *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine* and Clifford Allbutt's *System of Medicine*, but his main interest, extending over forty years, was in the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, its evolution and progress. At his death he was its second oldest member (elected in 1869, bracketed with Dr. David Nicolson, C.B.), the oldest being Sir James Crichton-Browne (elected in 1863). From 1887 onwards to 1908 he served more or less continuously on the Council, and took an active part in formulating the syllabus for the training by lectures and examinations of mental nurses. He moreover served quite twenty years with me on the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which Her Royal Highness Princess Christian was President. During this time we were endeavouring to obtain the proper recognition of mental hospital trained nurses.

Dr. Wood's election as President of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1905 occurred through the resignation of the President-Elect, Dr. A. R. Turnbull, Medical Superintendent of the Fife and Kinross Asylum at the Spring Meeting at York in that year. It was Scotland's turn to nominate, but as no nomination was forthcoming at such short notice we elected Dr. Wood, as one of our most active Members of Council. His year of office was a great success. His personality and tact upheld in every way the dignity of the Chair, and his experience as a

diner-out was of value in arranging and carrying through the Annual and Council Dinners. During his Presidency he sought out and had appended to each name in the list of members the date of admission to membership, and he gave to the Library an album to contain the photographs of the early Chairmen and all the Past Presidents of the Association, nearly all of which he obtained at considerable trouble to himself. Further to show his enthusiasm I may add that it was at his suggestion that I gave the Presidential Badge to the Association in 1904, during my year of office. As he was one of the few remaining mental specialists of his generation, and therefore unknown to many of the readers of this memoir (for he retired from practice in 1915), I must, before concluding, say something of his personal attributes. He was tall, of handsome presence, courtly manners and address, and always scrupulously attired, as the typical physician of the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. His ready wit and his bright, cheery, sympathetic nature appealed to all with whom he came in contact, and secured for him success in practice with a high class *clientèle*. He was interested for many years, with Dr. Henry Rayner, Dr. Stanley Elliot and myself, in two private mental hospitals, Fenstanton, London, S.W. (formerly Dr. Gardiner Hill's) and Bailbrook House, Bath, upon the Boards of Management of which he served until increasing age necessitated his retirement. During this last period, as he was very musical, he attended regularly the concerts at the Pavilion, Torquay, and followed his study of the British Flora, which he had taken up late in life at my suggestion. He was a skilled ornithologist, and knew the habitat, song and call-notes (many of which he could imitate) of most British birds, but it was as a fly-fisher that he most excelled, for he had loved and followed the sport from boyhood. For a good many years we spent a month together fishing the Coquet, the tributaries of the Tweed and the burns of the Cheviots. A better or more interesting companion it would have been impossible to have. During half a century we were bound together by the closest ties of friendship, now, alas, brought to the inevitable close.

He married, in 1870, Charlotte Augusta, youngest daughter of Mr. Edward Potter, of Cramlington House, Northumberland, one of the leading mining engineers of the North. She died in 1907, leaving no issue.
