

## Obituary Notice.

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EDWARD MAPOTHER, M.D., F.R.C.P.LOND., F.R.C.S.ENG.

THE death of Edward Mapother on March 20, 1940, has deprived British Psychiatry of one who in his own way has done more to alter and develop the specialty in England than any of his contemporaries.

He was born in Dublin in 1881, the son of a distinguished anatomist, a President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. He was educated in England at University College School, and later at University College and its associated Hospital. He qualified in 1905, after a distinguished career as a student, and during his resident appointments served under Dr. Risien Russell, gaining a knowledge of neurology which influenced his outlook towards psychiatry.

His first regular appointment in Psychological Medicine was at the London County Mental Hospital at Long Grove, Epsom, where he was associated with the brilliant team of workers collected by Sir Hubert Bond, which included among others Devine and Bernard Hart.

He was one of the first to try to join the R.A.M.C. on the outbreak of the 1914 War, even undergoing a minor orthopaedic operation lest he should not be found fit for full service. He served in Mesopotamia and France, returning to England to organize the Neurological division of the 2nd Western General Hospital. After the Armistice he was put in charge of the Maudsley Hospital during its phase as a Pensions Hospital for War Neuroses. Here he again came into contact with Sir Frederick Mott, who had originally organized the hospital on its completion as a treatment centre for neurological and shell-shock soldiers. Mott was still in charge of the Central Laboratory of the London Mental Services, which had been transferred from Claybury to the Maudsley when the latter opened. The association with Mott undoubtedly helped to crystallize Mapother's own tendency to approach psychiatry from the neurological and organic standpoint.

In 1922 he was appointed the first Medical Superintendent of the Maudsley Hospital, when it was opened for its original purpose. He was enthusiastically imbued with the principles for which it was established by Dr. Henry Maudsley, namely, of teaching, treatment and research, and he devoted the rest of his life to promoting these functions.

On the material side, he developed the hospital from six small wards and a small ill-equipped out-patients' department to the present imposing collection of buildings, with an out-patients' department dealing with about 4000 fresh cases yearly, and with a thriving children's department.

Mapother had to fight an uphill battle to attain this development. He was handicapped at the start with few facilities and few assistants, but he overcame prejudice in many directions, and succeeded in establishing a psychiatric hospital second to none, with properly organized departments, and established it as a great centre of teaching in the University of London, so helping towards his ideal of making psychiatry take its proper position in relation to other branches of medicine. It is only fair to add that as the value of this work became apparent to the lay authority for whom he worked, the London County Council, they provided ample funds to help its development.

While his work in linking up the Maudsley Hospital with general medicine was of the greatest value, he was not so interested in maintaining links with the mental hospitals. His enthusiasm for joining psychiatry to general medicine caused him to take a somewhat one-sided attitude towards the ideal of a well co-ordinated mental health service, embracing all branches of psychiatry, and fulfilling all the mental health needs of its area.

The influence of his teaching was always practical and objective. He believed in a psychiatry based on sound clinical neurology and a study of the nervous system, and indeed one of his unfulfilled ambitions was to establish a neuro-psychiatric section at the Maudsley Hospital. He was intolerant of speculations founded on vague philosophy. He always emphasized the importance of the recent as opposed to the remote environmental stresses, in influencing mental illness. Indeed his impatience with the undue claims of some schools of psychological thought made him express in debate a greater antagonism than perhaps he really felt, for he never neglected to study the various aspects of approach to disease, and utilized any that appeared useful to him. He encouraged investigation and research in his co-workers, although impatient of mere compilation without intelligent evaluation. His own trend was towards the clinical side, and purely laboratory experimentation interested him less. Owing to his numerous organizing activities, he left himself little time for systematic personal investigation, but he published work on the Alcoholic Mental Disorders and the Mental Symptoms of Head Injuries, and he also gave the Bradshaw Lectures at the Royal College of Physicians in 1936, in which he indicated his ideas for the progress of psychiatry. He was Physician to and Lecturer on Psychological Medicine at King's College Hospital, and he was an Examiner and Councillor of the Royal College of Physicians, as well as a Fellow of University College, London. He was an Ex-President of the Psychiatric Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and in 1937 he was appointed to the newly created Professorship of Clinical Psychiatry in the University of London, an acknowledgment of his work as a teacher. He

was consultant to the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Millbank, and also to the Ex-Services Welfare Society, for which body he did much useful work. In 1939 he was elected to deliver the Maudsley Lecture but owing to illness he was unable to do so.

He was a tireless worker, and he devoted his life and energies to the Maudsley Hospital. He has developed the work of Maudsley and Mott, and established a great University Clinic in Psychiatry, and laid foundations which will enable others to do still more for British Psychiatry.

In 1915 he married Barbara, daughter of the late Charles Reynolds, and much of his work latterly was only rendered possible by her help and care of him.

A. A. W. PETRIE.