

Obituary Notice.

HENRY DEVINE, *O.B.E.*, M.D.Lond.&Brist., F.R.C.P.

HENRY Devine, who died on May 1 at Portsmouth, was one of the outstanding figures in British psychiatry. He was born on May 2, 1879, and educated at the Merchant Venturers' School, Bristol. He studied medicine at University College and the General Hospital, Bristol, qualifying in 1902. He obtained the London M.B. degree, and subsequently the M.D., being awarded the gold medal in mental diseases. After the formation of the University of Bristol in 1909, he became an M.D. of this University also. He became M.R.C.P. in 1906, and was elected F.R.C.P. in 1919.

After a house appointment at Bristol he turned to psychological medicine, which remained the dominating interest of his professional life. He entered the L.C.C. mental hospital service at Cane Hill, and transferred to Long Grove at Epsom when it was opened in 1907. He availed himself there of every opportunity to enlarge his theoretical and practical experience of psychiatry and its sister sciences. He studied experimental psychology under Prof. Spearman at University College, London, and obtained a grant of special leave to attend Kraepelin's clinic at Munich, then the Mecca of psychiatry in Europe. During this period he was awarded the Gaskell Prize of the Medico-Psychological Association. From Long Grove he went as senior medical officer to Wakefield Mental Hospital, a hospital with a long tradition of able men, and then became medical superintendent of the Portsmouth Mental Hospital (now St. James's Hospital). Devine was in command there during the last war, when the hospital was partly converted to military purposes, and for his war services he received the *O.B.E.* in 1919, and was appointed consulting psychiatrist to the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley. Finally he became medical superintendent of the Holloway Sanatorium at Virginia Water, a post which he held until his retirement on account of ill-health in 1938.

Devine's professional activities and interests extended over a wide field. He was for many years lecturer in psychology at the Maudsley Hospital, and was appointed examiner by the Royal College of Physicians for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine. He was a past president of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine, and played a prominent part in the work of the Child Guidance Council.

Throughout his career he was closely associated with the British Medical Association and its Journal, being for many years a contributor to the latter, and its adviser in psychological medicine. At the Liverpool meeting of the Association in 1912 he was honorary secretary of the Section of Neurology and Psychological Medicine, and when the Association met in 1923 at Portsmouth, the town linked with so much of his work, he naturally presided over the Section. In 1932 he was vice-president of the Section at the Centenary Meeting in London.

He became assistant editor of this Journal in 1916, and was co-editor from 1920 to 1927. As regards his other literary activities, he contributed numerous papers to psychiatric and psychological journals, including the articles on "Psychoses" in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and in various systems of medicine.

For a long period he was responsible for the psychiatric sections of the *Medical Annual*, a task which he embraced with enthusiasm because it enabled him to keep abreast of the growing flood of psychiatric literature at home and abroad. This was of great service to him when he produced in 1929 his most ambitious work, *Recent Advances in Psychiatry*. He attempted here to co-ordinate and place in perspective the divergent and largely independent schools of scientific thought in modern psychiatry, and the attempt was eminently successful. A second edition was soon demanded, and the book remains one of the most helpful and illuminating available to the student. Devine was pre-eminently qualified to undertake a work of this kind, because he had always steadfastly avoided attaching himself to any one school of thought, but maintained a balanced and impartial attitude, ready to examine and appraise every alleged advance and to co-ordinate it, if it could be established, in the structure of psychiatry. His interests extended to every avenue which promised aid in the solution of the problems of psychiatry, and neurology, chemistry, psychology and sociology all came within his critical purview. His writings were therefore distinguished, not so much by the initiation of original research, as by his comprehensive grasp of the value of the contributions offered by the various schools of thought which are to-day working in the field of psychiatry, and by a nice and cool judgment in assessing their import and relationships.

Devine's personality was extraordinarily attractive, and he was one of the most lovable of men. To his many friends he was always "Henry," and personal characteristics which might have been defects in another, notably a charming absent-mindedness in the affairs of everyday life, seemed in him to fit with entire congruity into a character which endeared him to all. He had an intense interest in all human affairs, and an unbounded capacity for sympathizing with human difficulties and frailties, which manifested itself both in his relations with patients and in the administration and guidance of the institutions and staffs which were under his care. He was an able administrator, but still more he was a great physician.

BERNARD HART.