

congestion of good matter which had to be crowded out, that New South Wales, when we next meet, would do well to, as far as possible, specify and limit the work, in order that more benefit may be gained, and much labour not go unrequited.

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#### OBITUARY.

HARDINGE FRANK GIFFARD, M.A., F.S.A., Commissioner in Lunacy.

By the death of Mr. H. F. Giffard, from acute peritonitis, at Buxton on October 11th, the English Lunacy Commission has again been deprived of one of its members, who, although he had only been in office for eight years, had become the Senior Legal Commissioner on the lamented death of Mr. Urmson in September, 1907. Mr. Giffard was the son of the late Judge Giffard, and was born at Hampton Wick in 1860. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, and was called to the bar in 1887. In the administration of 1886-92, and again in that of 1895, he acted as private secretary to his uncle, Lord Chancellor Halsbury. In the latter year he was appointed Secretary to the Lunacy Commission in succession to Mr. G. H. Urmson, and on the death of Mr. Frere in 1900 he became a member of the Board. He held sound views as to the duties of Lunacy Commissioners and their primary function in the guardianship of the insane, views which found expression in the evidence he gave before the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded. He was of sturdy physique, and fond of all forms of active exercise; but he was especially devoted to antiquarian research, which, with him, was more of a pursuit than a hobby. Doubtless the fact that he came of ancient lineage—for one Walter Giffard was a close friend of the Conqueror—and that many of his forbears had held high office in Church and State, stimulated his zeal in this study; and he was a prominent member of the Society of Antiquaries. It was therefore quite appropriate that he should have been laid to rest at Chittlehampton, in North Devon, of which the fine church contains monuments of the Giffards of the 17th century, whose ancient seat of Brightley is in the vicinity. Needless to add, too, that he was an enthusiastic Devonian. Mr. Giffard married in 1900, and has left a widow and two young children to mourn their loss.

S. C.

#### JAMES ADAM.

DR. J. ADAM, of West Malling Place, Kent, whose death it is our painful duty to record, was one of the oldest and best known members of our specialty.

Born at Perth in 1834, he obtained his medical education at the Edinburgh University, graduating with distinction. In 1857 he joined the Indian Medical Service, serving through the Mutiny. Quitting this service he became the Resident Medical Officer at Bethnal House Asylum in 1860, later becoming Senior Medical Officer and Acting Medical Superintendent of the female side of Colney Hatch.

In 1870 he was appointed Superintendent of the Metropolitan District Asylum at Caterham, where he remained until 1879, when he became Superintendent of the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, and of the Southern Counties Asylum.

Retiring from public asylum work, Dr. Adam acquired in 1883 the West Malling Place Private Asylum, which he continued to direct until the onset of the illness that proved fatal.

The successive appointments held by Dr. Adam are sufficient evidence of his great professional capacity, which was manifested by untiring energy and zealous desire to improve the organisation of the institutions committed to his care. This was especially the case in regard to West Malling, which he practically reconstituted.

His literary contributions on Self-mutilation in Tuke's *Dictionary of Medicine*, and others in the *Journal of Mental Science*, *Lancet*, etc., are evidence of his interest in the scientific side of his life's work.

Dr. Adam, like many other private asylum superintendents, took an active part in the affairs of his locality, where his loss will be felt by a numerous circle of friends. He leaves a widow, four sons, and four daughters to mourn his loss. His own failure of health dated from the death, two years ago, of a son whose health

had been broken by service in the South African war. This led to his deciding to retire from active work. With his accustomed energy and decision he had commenced building a house at Hythe, in Kent, to which he intended to remove. His fatal illness pathetically anticipated this intention.

#### ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.

On the 16th of December there passed beyond a well-known member of our Association, Dr. Alexander Robertson, a man esteemed and beloved by all who knew him, and most so by those who knew him best.

Born at Rutherglen, he took the degree of M.D. at the Glasgow University in 1855, and after filling the post of House Surgeon to the Glasgow Infirmary he became Assistant Physician to the Royal Asylum at Gartnavel. From this time he devoted much attention to the study of nervous and mental diseases. After leaving Gartnavel he became Superintendent of the City Parochial Hospital and Asylum in Glasgow, an office by no means easy to fill. Here he soon began to earn distinction by his observations on insanity, which were many and various, embracing diagnosis, pathology, and treatment. At the International Medical Congress at London in 1881, Dr. Robertson's papers on "Percussion of the Skull" and on "Unilateral Hallucinations" were pronounced the best contributions that came from the north.

Dr. Robertson's mind was of too comprehensive a character to suffer him to remain within the bounds of a specialty. At the Parochial Hospital he always had wards for ordinary patients; and when he retired from this situation about twenty years ago he was appointed Visiting Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. After lecturing for some years on insanity he was in 1889 appointed Professor of the Practice of Medicine in St. Mungo's College. As a teacher he was much liked by the students, and he was very successful in imbuing them with a love of the healing art. While skilful both in diagnosis and pathology Dr. Robertson gave his best attention to therapeutics. He resigned his professorship about nine years ago, but still remained a consultant in Glasgow, where his advice was especially sought in nervous diseases and in insanity. He remained to the last Consulting Physician to the District Lunacy Board and Physician to the Old Men's and Old Women's Home. Dr. Robertson was president of various medical societies in Glasgow, and Examiner for the triple qualification.

In the spring of 1901 I went with Dr. Robertson to Italy, where his inexhaustible good humour, genial sense of enjoyment, and interest in history and art made him a most agreeable companion. During the leaves which he managed to obtain he travelled widely. He twice crossed the Atlantic, and visited Syria and most countries of the continent of Europe.

In 1905 he was much gratified by a dinner given to him at Edinburgh by the Scottish Branch of the Medico-Psychological Association to signalise the fiftieth year of his medical work.

Dr. Robertson had a dignified benignity of manner; in examining a patient, as in everything else, he showed the patience and thoroughness of all his mental operations. When he got up to speak at a meeting one might be sure that he would not stop till he had made a full sweep of the subject. He was the author of numerous papers in various medical journals. A good specimen of his comprehensive method of dealing with a subject may be studied in his article on "Post-Apoplectic Insanity" in Tuke's 'Dictionary of Psychological Medicine.' He also wrote the section of insanity for Finlayson's 'Clinical Manual for the Study of Medicine.' For the last few years Dr. Robertson was in weak health; but he continued to attend to his professional duties till about a fortnight before his death from an attack of heart failure. He had reached his seventy-fifth year. He leaves behind him two sons (who both entered the medical profession and did duty in the South African war) and one daughter, who is married.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.