

Obituary.

HERBERT WILLIAMS, M.D.LOND.,
M.O.H. PORT OF LONDON.

WE regret to have to record the death, on January 16th, at the age of 53, of Dr. Herbert Williams, M.O.H. for the Port of London. He had recently been operated upon for appendicitis, and death was due to cardiac failure. He was the son of the late Alderman T. H. Williams of Weymouth, and received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He graduated M.B.Lond. with honours in medicine and physiology in 1888, and M.D. in 1890. He acted as assistant house-surgeon to the Metropolitan Hospital and house-physician to St. Bartholomew's. He was appointed assistant port medical officer (London) in 1892. In the following year he took the degree of M.D.Lond. in State Medicine and also the D.P.H. of Cambridge. In 1901 he succeeded Dr. W. H. Collingridge (who had been appointed medical officer to the City of London) as medical officer of health for the Port of London. The area under the jurisdiction of the Port of London Sanitary Committee extends from the high-water mark at Teddington Lock to Warden Point in the Isle of Sheppey, and includes the lower part of the Medway and innumerable streams, creeks, and harbours. One of the matters with which Dr. Williams had to deal was the possible danger of the introduction of plague, and it is stated that even to day the average number of rats killed every year is about 50,000. Among the duties to be discharged by the department over which Dr. Williams presided with so much ability, in addition to the inspection of ships for the prevention of exotic diseases, are the inspection of imported meat and foods generally, and of shellfish layings in the Thames estuary. He was also medical inspector under the Aliens Act and lecturer on port hygiene in the London School of Tropical Medicine. Dr. Williams was adjutant of the 1st Kent Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers during the South African war, and afterwards held the rank of major in the corps. He was a man much given to outdoor sports, and was a good golfer and oarsman.

A life-long friend writes: By the death of Dr. Herbert Williams the profession has lost one of its most able experts in public health, and it is no exaggeration to say that the ability, tact, and energy he displayed during the fifteen years for which he occupied the important position of medical officer to the Port of London have rarely been excelled. Perhaps more than all others the Port of London involves powerful interests, many of which are more or less in conflict; but Herbert Williams possessed in such a high degree the qualities of firmness, tact, and a strong sense of justice, that he was generally able to carry out the sanitary regulations of the port to the satisfaction of all. The importance of his work as medical officer to the Port of London will be understood when it is stated that on him rested the duty of inspecting and passing, as fit for consumption, all the food brought to London by ships, in addition to that of preventing the ingress of contagious disease. Williams had a deep practical acquaintance with port conditions, combined with medical ability and a shrewd knowledge of mankind, and those who knew of these qualities were perfectly satisfied that the sanitary welfare of the great city was in safe and capable hands. Except to the few experts, his great work at the Port of London was almost unknown, for Herbert Williams had a contempt for self-advertisement. He knew his own worth, but was careless as to whether those outside the great Corporation he served were acquainted with his abilities. Those who knew him intimately will sadly miss his cheery personality, his capacity for forming firm friendships, and his high feeling for justice and right.

CHARLES HENRY FOX, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.S.,
FORMERLY OF BRISLINGTON HOUSE ASYLUM, BRISTOL.

WE record with regret the death of Dr. Charles Henry Fox, who died, aged 78, on Christmas Day at his residence in Edinburgh, to which he had retired after relinquishing practice at Brislington House, near Bristol. He was the

fourth son of the late Dr. Francis Ker Fox of Brislington Asylum, and a brother of the late Dr. Edward Long Fox of Bristol, and was born on June 7th, 1837.

Charles Henry Fox was educated at Shrewsbury and Highgate College, and entered at St. George's Hospital in 1855. He took the diploma of M.R.C.S. in 1859, and, after a further year at Edinburgh Medical School, he graduated M.D. at St. Andrews. He joined his father at Brislington House Asylum, and became a partner in 1873. He remained there until 1894, at first with his father and afterwards with his half-brother, Dr. Bonville Bradley Fox. When he relinquished practice he retired to Edinburgh, where he had many friends and old associations that he valued highly. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1900, and also a Fellow of the Botanical Society, and of the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland. He always described his earlier life in Edinburgh as his happiest year, and never regretted his return to that city to spend the last twenty-one years there, though for the last twelve years he had suffered from ill health, and had been a complete invalid for several years before he died. Ever courteous, kindly, and of a most generous and lovable disposition, he leaves behind him many relatives and friends who mourn his loss.

THE LATE COLONEL E. O. WIGHT, R.A.M.C.—A correspondent who was present sends us the following tribute to the memory of a dead comrade which was addressed to his officers by Colonel H. N. Thompson, D.S.O., at a recent fortnightly conference of the medical officers of an army corps serving in Belgium:

Brother officers, I ask you to rise while I remind you that this is our first meeting here since the passing of our brother Colonel E. O. Wight. I have no doubt that his striking personality and genial presence is vividly with you all at this moment, as it is with me. He was ever a loyal colleague and wise organizer and adviser. He possessed such wonderful energy that he had always been everywhere and seen everything throughout the division, and only spoke of what he knew. To those of you who had the great privilege of serving under him in the 49th Division he was the ideal chief, and I well know how he had won the affectionate respect—I may almost say reverence—of every one of you. Colonel White was proverbial in the corps as being a man devoid of fear, one devoted heart and soul to his work, and to the interest and care of the soldiers committed to his charge. He was an officer of the very best type which our corps produces, a conscientious worker, a good sportsman, and a gentleman to his finger tips. It was inconceivable that anything sordid or mean could ever find a place near him. In his career he set a bright example, and taught us how best a man should live, and, finally, how he best should die. I think his was the death which he would have most wished to die. Killed on the field of honour in the cause of his country and his King, the death most fitting such a gallant gentleman. *Requiescat in pace.*

WE regret to have to announce the death last week of Dr. EDWARD DANIEL O'NEILL, Resident Medical Superintendent of Limerick District Lunatic Asylum, after an illness which did not take an acute form until within a few days of his death. He was born sixty-three years ago. He was a student of the Carmichael School, Dublin; he took the diplomas of L.R.C.S. (1872), L.R.C.P. (1878), and M.R.C.P.I. (1884), and from 1881 to 1886 he was assistant medical superintendent at Richmond Lunatic Asylum, whence he was promoted to be resident medical superintendent of Castlebar Asylum, where he did duty for a period of four years. In 1890 he succeeded to the charge of Limerick Asylum, and during his long tenure of that office won the recognition of the inspectors, the committee of management, and the public for his thoughtful and capable administration and the kindness he showed towards the patients under his care. His death is greatly regretted, and the committee of management at its last meeting passed a vote of condolence with his family.

DR. HENRY LAWRENCE, who died at Capetown on July 20th, at the age of 86, was the oldest member of the profession in South Africa. He was present at the first administration of chloroform in London, at University College, during an operation performed by Liston. He was born in England. He began his professional education as apprentice to a practitioner in a western county. In October, 1847, he entered at University College; he took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1850, and for three

years practised in London; he went to South Africa in 1854, and received an appointment in the Convict Department then mainly engaged in road making. Subsequently he practised for many years at George. He retired in 1880, and lived afterwards at Capetown. All Dr. Lawrence's four sons entered the medical profession. Dr. T. G. Lawrence, first in practice in George, went to Johannesburg in its early days and died in the Eighties. The remaining sons, Drs. Alfred, Norman (Major R.A.M.C.), and Arthur Lawrence, are still in the Cape Province. Two of Dr. Lawrence's grandsons are doctors—Dr. Ruthven Lawrence of Claremont, at present serving with the South African General Hospital in England, and Dr. Cyril Wilson, late Surgeon, R.N., more recently in practice in South Africa, and now serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps. The *South African Medical Record* describes Dr. Lawrence as a man of fine presence, who until lately retained all his vigour; only three years ago he underwent suprapubic lithotomy, and walked about, as though nothing had happened, within a fortnight. Dr. Lawrence was well read, as he never neglected general learning. His social qualities were high, and he charmed his friends by his conversational powers.

THE HON. WALTER HUMPHRIES MONTAGUE, M.D., of Winnipeg, died of apoplexy on November 15th. He was born at Adelaide, Ontario, in November, 1858, and was the son of a farmer. His career was remarkable; he began as an errand boy in a country store. He took a teacher's certificate at Woodstock College, and afterwards entered the Toronto School of Medicine, going from there to Victoria University, Cobourg, where he obtained his degree. He was admitted to the College of Surgeons and Physicians of Ontario, and to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. For several years Dr. Montague practised at Dunnville, Ontario. In 1883 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Ontario legislature, and was first elected to the House of Commons in 1887. The election was voided, but he was re-elected the same year; that election was also voided by the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1889 he was an unsuccessful candidate at a by-election, which also was declared void, and in 1890 he was again elected. He was re-elected in 1891 and 1896, but was defeated in 1900. In December, 1894, Dr. Montague entered the Bowell administration without portfolio, and in 1895 became Minister of Agriculture, which office he retained under the Tupper Government until July, 1896. In 1908 Dr. Montague removed to Manitoba, and in 1913 was appointed Minister of Public Works. He retained that office until the resignation of the Roblin Government some months ago. Dr. Montague leaves a widow, two daughters, and two sons—Captain R. J. Montague, who is Staff Captain for General Ketchen, and Captain F. Montague, A.D.C. to General Turner.

The Services.

EXCHANGES DESIRED.

A CAPTAIN R.A.M.C.(T.F.) Field Ambulance, at present in England, wishes to exchange with an officer doing duty in a hospital or casualty clearing station. Address No. 350, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Captain (T.F.), at present serving in Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance at home, wishes to exchange with officer in Field Ambulance or Casualty Clearing Station abroad or about to proceed abroad.—Address, No. 349, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

THE late Dr. J. W. N. Mackay, of Elgin, left personal estate of the total value of £13,269.

THE Police Commissioner of New York has taken action for the prevention of unnecessary noises, and has issued an order enjoining a strict enforcement of the regulations.

UNDER the presidency of Professor Sanarelli a national league for the hygienic well-being of soldiers in the field has been formed at Rome. Its object is to supply whatever is needed to make life in the trenches and fighting line generally more comfortable for the men, to improve their physical condition, and increase their power of resistance to disease. Branches of the league will be formed in different cities for the special purpose of arranging for the transmission of gifts for the troops.

Medical News.

THE *Journal de Médecine de Bordeaux* states that at the opening of the academic year 1914-15 there were still some students too young for military service, but the successive calling up of the 1915 and 1916 classes quickly thinned their already depleted ranks. At present Saint André, the principal clinical hospital, has only two residents; both are doctors of medicine, and one is a woman. Eleven externs are doing duty as residents. The other hospital workers (*stagiaires*) comprise a few young men medically unfit for military service with some women students and a sprinkling of foreigners. In the early months of the war there was a marked decrease in the number of ordinary patients. The total number for the third quarter of 1914 was 1,351. In 1915 the figures became almost normal; the number of patients in the third quarter was 1,883, higher by 532 than that for the corresponding period in 1914. A noteworthy point is the change in the nationality of the patients. Whereas before the war the wards were filled with Portuguese, Greeks, Dutchmen, Danes, and Norwegians, lying side by side with Moroccans come to Bordeaux to work on the quays, now their place has been taken by French men and women and by Belgian refugees. The scheme for uniting the four teaching hospitals—Saint André, the Children's Hospital, that of Le Tondu and the Pellegrin Hospice—into one vast general hospital, which was on the point of being carried into effect, has had to be held in abeyance till the end of the war.

In some notes on insecticides published in the *Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, Drs. Castellani and Jackson state that for use against lice on a large scale the best powder is naphthaline. It has a lower destructive action than kerosene oil, guaiacol, iodoform, or anise preparations, but has a less unpleasant odour than the first three named, and is much cheaper than the last. Of liquid insecticides kerosene appears to be the best. Where price is not a matter of consequence menthol powder is to be preferred to naphthaline; it not only repels lice and fleas, but mosquitos also. For bugs kerosene oil is the best insecticide, and next to it guaiacol and pyrethrum powder.

LAST February the *Field* published a very remarkable special supplement, written by Dr. Arthur Tacquin, Physician-in-Ordinary to the King of the Belgians, giving an account, with striking illustrations, of some of the deeds of the Germans in Belgium. The editor of the *Field* now announces that a special shilling number of that paper will be published on January 29th, giving a further account of the crimes of the Germany army. Among other matters it will deal with the murder of women and children, and the murder and wounding of civilians in France, with corroborative evidence from German sources; the use of civilians as screens, with German admissions that this had been done; and with the killing or mutilating of wounded, again with German admissions. The long preliminary table of contents, of which we have given only a brief outline, includes also outrages on the Red Cross and the poisoning of wells, and ends with the significant words, "more to follow."

THE China Inland Mission has issued a report by Dr. G. Whitfield Guinness (London • Morgan and Scott. 1915. Price 3d. net), of the medical work done in Kaifeng, the capital of Honan, under its auspices. The death (from typhus fever contracted in the course of his work) of Dr. Sidney Carr in 1914 made the running of the hospital there very difficult, but Dr. Guinness has since been joined by Drs. Jessie McDonald and D. M. Gibson. Medical training is carried on, and although Kaifeng Mission Hospital is not a medical school with power to grant a doctor's degree, the curriculum is a practical one and turns out men who are able to do a large number of operations with skill. These hospital assistants are divided into three classes: Student assistants, ward nurses, and ward coolies. The women's work is now under the charge of Dr. Jessie McDonald, who is a graduate of Toronto. In 1904, when the work was begun, there were 1,476 out-patients' attendances; in 1913 the number had risen to 15,021, and there had been a further increase in 1914. The number of in-patients in 1913 was over 600; and the 1,600 operations included 505 for entropion, 175 for fistula in ano, 372 for various abscesses, 157 tooth extractions, and a few serious operative procedures. Local anaesthesia was used in 950 cases, no anaesthetic at all in 567, and chloroform in 133.