

Obituary.

SIR JAMES HODSDON, K.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S.ED.,
Member of the General Medical Council; President of the
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 1914-17.

As recorded with regret in our last issue, Sir James Hodsdon died suddenly on May 28th, while returning to Edinburgh from London after the summer session of the General Medical Council. For some years his health had given anxiety to his friends, but he seemed on the day preceding his death to be in ordinary health and vigour. After retiring to his sleeping berth in the train, he had laid down without undressing, and was found dead by the train attendant between 6 and 7 o'clock next morning.

James William Beeman Hodsdon was born in Bermuda in 1858, and, coming to England at the age of 13, completed his school education at Sherborne. After commencing medical study at Queen's College, Belfast, in 1875, he went to Edinburgh in 1877 and became a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1880. He proceeded in 1883 to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons and to the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Meantime, in 1881, he had graduated M.D. at Queen's University, Belfast. He became, in the summer of 1880, house-physician to Dr. Brakenridge, one of the physicians in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, having as one of his fellow residents the late Dr. Alexander Bruce, and a year later, in the winter session 1881-82, he became house-surgeon to Mr. John Duncan, with whom he maintained a close connexion for many years. In the meantime he had acted as a resident physician in the Sick Children's and Maternity Hospitals, and had spent a period in foreign study, during which he visited

the medical schools of Vienna, Paris, and London. Having a natural bent towards surgery, Mr. Hodsdon acted as assistant to Mr. John Duncan and later as an extra-mural lecturer on surgery. In the latter capacity he was a highly successful teacher, being very popular with students in the early years of the present century as a clear and concise lecturer, and attracting for many years a very large class. While acting as lecturer on surgery he served at various times as examiner in surgery and clinical surgery in the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham, and Belfast. In 1886 he was elected assistant surgeon to the Royal Infirmary and in this capacity was again associated with Mr. John Duncan, and, after assisting him for many years in private practice, succeeded him as chief medical adviser to the Scottish Provident Insurance Company. In 1909 he contested the appointment to the chair of surgery, vacant on the resignation of Professor Chiene, but was defeated by the late Professor Alexis Thomson, and at that time gave up his highly successful extra-mural class in surgery.

From the time of his election as an assistant surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Mr. Hodsdon maintained a close

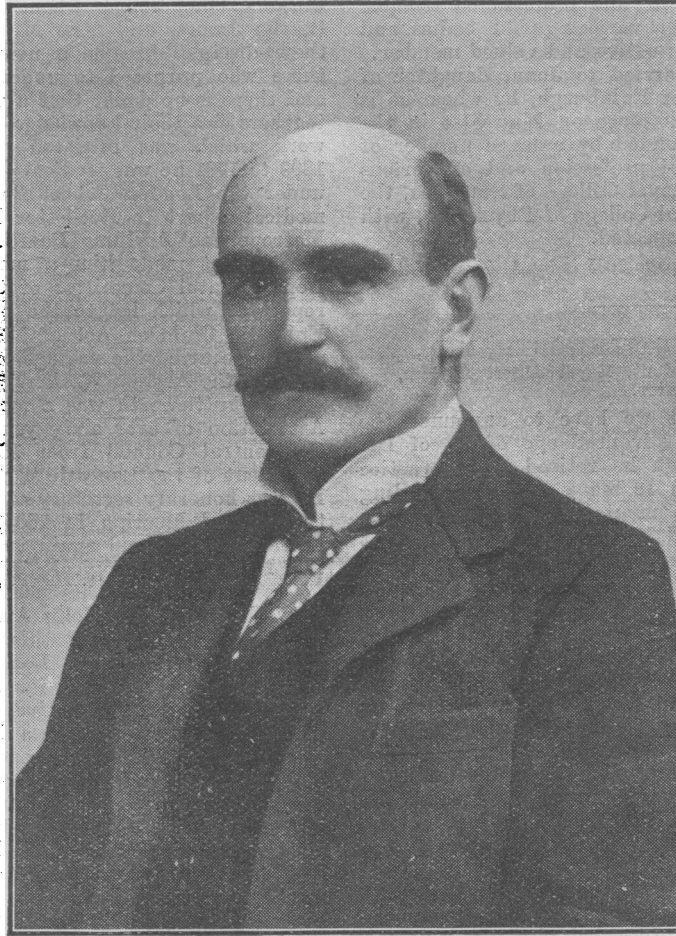
connexion with this institution, becoming successively surgeon in 1907, consulting surgeon in 1922, and a member of the board of management in 1923. The last appointment he still held at the time of his death. He was a very active member of the board, and took a great interest in the arrangements now in progress for revising the agreement in regard to clinical teaching in Edinburgh between the managers of the Royal Infirmary, the University, and the School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges. A few years ago he devoted a great deal of time and energy on behalf of the Royal Infirmary to the reorganization of the radiological department, visiting similar centres elsewhere to investigate modern developments in this direction. The new department in the Royal Infirmary, which is regarded as one of the finest in the country, was, to a large extent, his creation.

He had taken an active part in the deliberations of the General Medical Council since 1906, when he was elected to represent on that body the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, of which from 1914 to 1917 he was president. He was also a member of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom after the establishment of that body in 1921, and for a number of years had been chairman of the governing body of the School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges at Edinburgh.

Sir James Hodsdon had a long and intimate connexion with the British Medical Association. He had been joint honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Branch from 1898 to 1901 and vice-chairman of the North-West Edinburgh Division for several years prior to the amalgamation of the three original Edinburgh Divisions into one Edinburgh and Leith Division as at present. He was also chairman of the North-West Edinburgh Division in 1905, a representative of this Division to the Annual Representative Meeting in 1904, and

its representative on the Edinburgh Branch Council from 1904 to 1907. In connexion with the Edinburgh Meeting of the Association in 1927 he took an active part in the organization, being chairman of the committee which arranged the annual dinner in the Music Hall at Edinburgh. In the midst of a busy administrative life he found time to make some contributions to current medical literature, and was the author of the article on the palate in the *Encyclopaedia Medica*. He contributed an article on excision of the sigmoid for carcinoma, when that operation was comparatively new, to the second volume of the *Edinburgh Hospital Reports*. Between 1888 and 1891 he had also contributed to the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* an inquiry into the method of cure in empyema, and to the *Lancet* an experimental inquiry into the influence of the pulmonary blood pressure upon the collapsed lung.

During the war he rendered valuable services as a member of the surgical staff of the 2nd Scottish General Hospital at Craigleith. He was also for some time the surgical member of the special medical board for Scotland which reviewed the decisions of the various medical boards



SIR JAMES HODSDON.

in Scotland in regard to recruiting, and he was, in the later stages of the war, a member of the Scottish Medical Service Emergency Committee. He acted for the Ministry of Pensions as a member of the Advisory Medical Council for the Scottish Area, and in this connexion arranged for the building, equipment, and staffing of the orthopaedic annexe at Tynecastle, Edinburgh. In recognition of these services he received the C.B.E. in 1919, and was created K.B.E. in 1920.

He was a keen sportsman, and for more than thirty years his annual holiday had been spent in sea trout fishing at Lochboisdale in the Outer Hebrides. Another favourite relaxation was shooting. His administrative capacity was universally recognized, and his advice was constantly sought on difficult and intricate questions affecting medical affairs. His death will be felt not only as a personal sorrow to many private and professional friends, but will be a great loss to the various public bodies and committees of which he was an active and valued member.

Sir James Hodsdon was married to Joan, daughter of the late Mr. William Raffin of Edinburgh, by whom he is survived. The interment took place on May 31st in the Dean Cemetery, and was attended by a large number of representatives of the medical profession and of various organizations, including the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal Infirmary, and the Royal College of Physicians, with which he had been officially connected.

The photograph reproduced on page 1003 is by A. Swan Watson, Edinburgh.

GEORGE EDWARD SHUTTLEWORTH, M.D.,

Formerly Medical Superintendent, Royal Albert Asylum,
Lancaster.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death, on May 28th, at the advanced age of 86, of Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth. Although he retired from practice several years ago, he was for so many years the leading authority in this country on mental deficiency, and the author of such a widely read book on this subject, that there can be few psychiatrists throughout the civilized world to whom his name is not familiar. To many members of the medical profession in this country, even the junior ones, he was a well-known and revered figure, for, although he had outlived most of his contemporaries, he continued long after his retirement to attend and speak at meetings relating to the subject to which he had devoted his life. By his passing the medical profession, and psychiatry in particular, have lost a member of outstanding prominence; while his character and personality were such that those who knew him mourn the loss of a warm-hearted friend and a sage counsellor, who was ever ready to give his services in the cause of the needy and distressed.

George Edward Shuttleworth was born at Edgbaston on November 16th, 1842. He went to the City of London School, and on leaving there proceeded to King's College, London, where he graduated B.A. with honours in physiology. He subsequently obtained the M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. diplomas, and the M.D. degree of Heidelberg. After working for a time at the Kilburn Dispensary he was appointed assistant medical officer to the Earlswood Institution for Defectives, the superintendent being the well-known Dr. J. Langdon-Down. Here he remained until 1870, when he was chosen, out of a large number of candidates, to be medical superintendent of the Royal Albert Asylum at Lancaster. He occupied this position for twenty-three years, and his intense keenness in his work, his wide knowledge and outstanding ability, his skill in originating and applying methods of training, brought that institution into the first rank of establishments for the care of the mentally defective, and gained for it a reputation which attracted visitors, not only from all parts of the United Kingdom, but from distant parts of the world. In this work Shuttleworth's knowledge of physiology stood him in good stead, and his methods of training were based upon sound physiological principles which received the warm approval of the great Dr. Seguin when he paid a visit to the institution. Although some improvements have naturally been made in the apparatus used for

teaching, the principles adopted and described at that time by Seguin in America and Shuttleworth in England are those which are in use at the present day.

On leaving the Royal Albert Asylum, Dr. Shuttleworth came to London and took up consulting work. His reputation caused him to be at once accepted as the leading authority regarding mental defectives. But he did much more than consulting work. He had long realized that the unfortunate mentally defective section of the community had claims to consideration and to care and training which, in the great majority of cases, were denied them, and he spent his time and energy unsparingly in arousing professional and public interest on their behalf. In his work of advocating their claims, of organizing and speaking at meetings, and instructing and training teachers, he had the enthusiastic support of a little band of devoted workers, chief among whom were Miss Ethel Dixon, Miss Bertha James, and Miss M. McDowall. In time each of these disciples became a new centre for the training of those who purposed to undertake the care of defectives, and there is no doubt that a very large proportion of such teachers owe their knowledge, directly or indirectly, to the work which was initiated by Dr. Shuttleworth. From 1899 to 1901 he was medical examiner of defective children under the London School Board, and from 1901 to 1905 medical expert to Rochester House Institution under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. His unique knowledge of the subject made him a most valuable member of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education, the report of which led to the passing of the Defective and Epileptic Children Act of 1899. He also took a leading part in securing the passage of another valuable measure—namely, the Asylum Workers' Superannuation Act of 1909.

Dr. Shuttleworth was a member of the British Medical Association of over sixty years' standing. He served on the central Council from 1899 to 1903, and had been President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch in 1892. He was honorary secretary of the Section of Psychology at the Annual Meeting in 1883, and Vice-president of this Section in 1885 and again in 1906. He was a member of the Medico-Psychological Association from 1877, and a constant attendant at its meetings. He did a large amount of work for the St. John Ambulance Association, and in 1892, in recognition of this, he was made an honorary associate of the order. Long after he was 60 years of age his energy and love for the work were such that he continued to take an active part in the affairs of many societies of which he was a highly valued member. One of those in which he was especially interested, and where his knowledge and advice were highly esteemed, was the Central Association for Mental Welfare, of which he was for many years a vice-president. Another, in which he held a similar office, was the National Association for the Feeble-minded. He was also an active vice-president of the Child Study Society and the Society for the Study of Inebriety. King's College, London, elected him a Fellow, and in 1909 he was given the freedom of the City of London.

While perhaps Dr. Shuttleworth's chief work was that of a teacher and exponent of methods of training, he nevertheless wrote important articles in the *Encyclopaedia Medica*, Allbutt's *System of Medicine*, Hack Tuke's *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine*, and numerous journals. His most important contribution, however, was his exceedingly valuable book on *Mentally Deficient Children*, the first edition of which was published in 1895, and the fifth edition, in conjunction with Dr. W. A. Potts, in 1922.

To those who did not know him this account will give some idea of Shuttleworth's ability and energy. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole of his professional life was one of untiring devotion in the cause of mental defectives. In this work he was a pioneer, and he maintained his interest in it almost up to the end. The writer visited him only a short time before he died; in spite of his manifest feebleness his thoughts were still on his life work, and he expressed his satisfaction at the recent passing of the amended Mental Deficiency Act. Those who were fortunate enough to know him, however, will remember him for something more and perhaps even greater. They