

Obituary

SIR ROBERT H. FIRTH, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S.
Colonel A.M.S. (Ret.)

As announced in our last issue Colonel Sir Robert Hammill Firth, K.B.E., C.B., late R.A.M.C., died in London on June 5th, aged 72. He was born in Byculla, Bombay, on December 1st, 1858, was educated at Oxford and at University College, London, and qualified as M.R.C.S. in 1879. He obtained the F.R.C.S.Eng. in 1882, and later the D.P.H. of the English Colleges in 1891.

Entering the Army as surgeon on August 4th, 1883, he attained the rank of colonel on November 13th, 1912, and retired on December 25th, 1917, when holding the post of Deputy Director of Medical Services. He served in the Tirah campaign on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-98, receiving the medal with two clasps, and throughout the war of 1914-18, when he was twice mentioned in dispatches—in the *London Gazette* of January 1st, 1916, and on December 24th, 1917. He was assistant professor of hygiene at the Army Medical School, Netley, from 1892 to 1897, and professor of military hygiene at Netley, and later at the Royal Army College at Millbank, after the school was transferred from Netley, from 1900 to 1906. During the four years from February, 1906, to February, 1910, he was in charge of the School of Army Sanitation at Aldershot.

He collaborated with the late Colonel Notter in the production of Notter's *Theory and Practice of Hygiene*, and largely rewrote the material ten years afterwards. As he explained in his preface, "Notter and Firth" was, strictly speaking, the third edition of the book which Colonel Notter and he brought out in 1896, based upon the well-known work of Dr. Edmund A. Parkes, and the extent of the changes made in the text were such as to render the edition of 1908 practically a new work. The ninth edition appeared in 1921. Colonel Firth was also author of other books on the same subject—*Hygiene and Practical Domestic Hygiene*, and a manual of sanitation for soldiers entitled *Military Hygiene*—and in 1919 he published *Musings of an Idle Man*.

He gained the Alexander Memorial prize and medal in 1888, and again in 1891; and the Parkes Memorial prize and medal in 1889, and again in 1892. He received the C.B. in 1918, and the K.B.E. on June 2nd, 1919. He was for many years a member of council and examiner at the Royal Sanitary Institute, a member of council of the Royal Institute of Public Health, and a Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health. He was also a member of the Société de Médecine Militaire Française. At the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association at Swansea in 1903 he held office as vice-president of the Section of State Medicine. In 1884 he married Mary, daughter of William Knight of Appledore, Devon, and leaves a daughter.

Mr. ANTHONY BLACKSTOCK, F.R.C.S., orthopaedic surgeon to the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, and to the Guest Hospital, Dudley, who died suddenly on June 2nd, was very well known in the district in which he practised. His untimely death came as a great shock to the neighbourhood, as he had been at his usual work in the morning. Mr. Blackstock obtained the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. diplomas in 1917, and became M.B., B.S. in 1923, and F.R.C.S. in 1924. For some time he was surgical registrar and out-patient surgical officer to King's College Hospital. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition, he thought and read deeply in science and philosophy, applying his knowledge to his profession with great success. He was especially noted for his kindness to the poor of the hospitals at which he worked. He leaves a widow and three children.

Dr. EVAN J. GRIFFITHS, who died at Porthcawl on June 5th, aged 58, was a native of the Swansea district. He received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1904; he obtained the D.P.H. Wales in 1910. After graduating he became assistant to Dr. Jones of Penrhiwceiber, and was subsequently appointed medical officer of health for Pontypridd, which office he retained for eighteen years, retiring to Porthcawl some four years ago. During the war Dr. Griffiths served in East Africa, and also accompanied an expedition to North Russia. He leaves a widow and two children. The funeral at Glyn Taff Cemetery was attended by a large and representative gathering.

Dr. J. HAYDN TIMOTHY died on May 27th, after only three days' illness, at the age of 53. Educated at Llandoverly College, Cardiff Medical School, and University College Hospital, London, he obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1903. After a period as resident medical officer at Fulham Infirmary, he took up practice at Nantgaredig, Carmarthenshire, where he remained until 1919, when he removed to Gwaun-cae-Gurwen, Glamorgan. He was a member of the British Medical Association, and had served on the Glamorgan Panel Committee for many years. Dr. Timothy's genial disposition assured him a large circle of friends among patients and colleagues in the area. He was buried at Nantgaredig on May 29th, and the large gathering at the funeral, both at Gwaun-cae-Gurwen and at Nantgaredig, testified to the esteem felt for him in both areas in which he had practised. He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters.

Dr. WILLIAM LEWELYN JONES, J.P., died at Merthyr on May 20th at the age of 58. He studied medicine at Glasgow University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1893, and M.D. in 1900; he obtained the F.R.C.S.Ed. in 1901. After spending about twelve months in the East as a ship surgeon in a P. and O. boat, he went into practice with his eldest brother at Blaenavon. He finally settled down in practice in Merthyr, where he was surgeon to the Merthyr General Hospital. He had not been in good health since the death of his wife, about six years ago, and of his son, aged 9, who died some time later. He is survived by two daughters.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Sir Wilmot Herringham, K.C.M.G., D.M., consulting physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has been elected an honorary Fellow of Keble College.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on June 12th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—*S. M. Hattersley, *S. R. Prall.
M.B., B.CHIR.—G. L. Ormerod, N. H. L. Ridley.
M.B.—C. Arthur.
B.CHIR.—A. Barnsley.

*By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

The next series of eight lectures and demonstrations on tropical hygiene, which are intended for men and women outside the medical profession proceeding to the tropics, will be given by Lieut.-Colonel G. E. F. Stammers from July 6th to 10th next. These courses of instruction, in addition to providing simple rules for guidance in regard to preparation for life in the Tropics and personal hygiene, will also embrace a short account of some of the more common diseases, with advice in regard to measures of protection and some guidance in simple methods of self-treatment. The synopsis and other particulars can be obtained from the secretary, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1.