

physician, very human, very kind. She possessed an open mind, nimble in its workings; and if she suffered at times from depression, at other times she could be very gay, delighting her company by her lively sallies. She was quite fearless in the expression of her mind and in the practice of her principles, wheresoever these might lead. Essentially individual, she went her own way in quiet self-possession, thus living up to the motto of Paracelsus: "Be liegeman to thyself and to none other" (*non sit alterius qui suus esse potest*). Above all she was a great friend: she will not be forgotten by those who had the privilege of her friendship. H. S.

Dr. DUNCAN JOHN MACKENZIE died at his residence, Loch Maree House, Glossop, on October 12th. He was born in 1846, and received his medical education in Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1872, and proceeded M.D. in 1874. After holding the post of assistant surgeon to Leith Hospital he commenced general practice in Glossop in 1874, and continued until his retirement in November, 1923. For twenty-two years he was also medical officer of health for the borough and rural district of Glossop, and for a few years the school medical officer. Dr. S. Kelly writes: Dr. Mackenzie was a great reader, maintaining to the last his interest in general and medical science and his study of the Latin and Greek classics. For forty-nine years in Glossop he lived a life of constant devotion to his professional and public work, and, apart from his reading, he took no other form of relaxation. Though by nature retiring, he was always ready to help in any public work or noble cause. As medical officer of health, and on various borough committees, he filled official positions with dignity and wisdom. His kindness and consideration for others endeared him to patients and fellow citizens, by whom he was esteemed not only for his medical skill, his wise advice in private and public affairs, his love of learning of all kinds, but also for his deeply religious character. He published many valuable papers, chiefly on public health subjects. He was a former chairman of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association. His death is greatly regretted, and the funeral was attended by the local medical practitioners, including representatives of the British Medical Association, the Mayor and borough officials, and representatives of many public bodies. He leaves a widow, one son, who is in the medical profession, and two daughters.

Dr. JOHN JAMES MURPHY, who died on September 18th, at St. John's, Newfoundland, obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1916, and from then until the end of the war he held a commission in the R.A.M.C. After demobilization he started practice in his native town of St. John's, Newfoundland, where he gained considerable reputation as a surgeon and gynaecologist. His colleague, Dr. Nutting Fraser, writes: Dr. Murphy's illness, which lasted a little over a week, was a particularly painful one. Stricken with ascending spinal paralysis, the muscles of respiration ceased work, and for a week he was kept alive by artificial respiration. Medical practitioners of St. John's responded nobly to the call, and for the eight days never ceased, one relieving another night and day, keeping up the respiration. He remained conscious throughout his illness, and was always deeply grateful to his brother practitioners for the attempts they were making to relieve him. Of a kindly, lovable disposition, Dr. Murphy had endeared himself to his colleagues and the community, as was evidenced by the expressions of sympathy, particularly at his funeral. He leaves a widow and three young children.

We regret to record the death, on October 19th, of Dr. JAMES THOMSON DICK, the recently appointed medical officer of health for Lanarkshire. Dr. Dick graduated with honours at Glasgow University in 1910, and two years later obtained the D.P.H. of Cambridge. He acted as resident officer in the Victoria Infirmary, the Royal Infirmary, and the Belvidere Fever Hospital of Glasgow, and thereafter filled the post of deputy medical officer of health for Birkenhead. Since 1913 he had held the appointment of assistant medical officer of health for the county of

Lanark, and discharged the duties of that responsible office with such acceptance that on the resignation of Dr. Wilson he was appointed to succeed him as medical officer of health. The appointment was made only ten days before his death, which was due to scarlet fever, doubtless contracted in the course of his professional work.

Dr. ARMITAGE MORTON died from pneumonia at Elland on October 7th, aged 47. He was the son of the late Mr. Joseph Morton, of Siddal, Halifax, and received his medical education at Leeds, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1905; he also took the degrees of M.B., Ch.B. Vict. four years later. After serving as house-physician and house-surgeon at the Leeds General Infirmary he practised at Burley Road, Leeds, but subsequently removed to Elland. During the war he served as captain R.A.M.C. with the expeditionary forces in Egypt and the East. Dr. Morton, who was a member of the Halifax Division of the British Medical Association, is survived by his widow and two children.

Mr. THOMAS ROBINSON, formerly a surgeon in Leeds, died at Bordighera, Italy, on October 9th. He was the son of Mr. John Robinson, and was born at Honley, near Huddersfield, in November, 1844. He was educated at Huddersfield College, and subsequently studied for the medical profession at the Leeds Medical School, taking the diploma of M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1867 and that of L.S.A. four years later. He became assistant to the late Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, and on the latter's retirement set up practice for himself. For many years he was lecturer on osteology and also on anatomy at the Leeds Medical School, with which institution he was connected for nearly thirty years. Mr. Robinson retired from practice in 1914 and went to live at Bordighera; he had visited England on one or two occasions.

Lieut.-Colonel J. M. J. P. PELLETIER, Agent-General for Quebec in London, died at Ottawa on October 19th, aged 64, while on a visit to his daughter-in-law. He was educated at St. Anne's College and Laval University, Quebec, and took the degree of M.D. He practised in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and served as a lieutenant of the Students' Company of the 9th Quebec Battalion during the suppression of the Riel rebellion. He acted as coroner of the St. François district from 1890 to 1900, when he was returned to the Quebec Parliament as the representative for Sherbrooke County; in 1908 he was unanimously elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. In 1911 he was appointed Agent-General in London for the Province of Quebec.

## Medico-Legal.

### A LIBEL ACTION.

IN the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, on October 27th, Mr. Justice McCardie gave judgement for the defendants in two actions brought by Miss Amy B. Hope, formerly a house-mother at the schools at Shirley, Surrey, controlled by the Bermondsey Guardians, claiming damages for alleged libel from Dr. John Brooke Ridley, of Croydon, the medical officer to the schools, from the Bermondsey Board of Guardians, and from Mr. Henry Herbert Reeve, the clerk to the guardians. The defendants pleaded privilege and justification, and also relied on the Public Authorities Protection Act, 1893.

The plaintiff, who appeared in person, said that while she was house-mother at the schools she was always in good health. Between January 1st and January 21st, 1919, however, Dr. Ridley reported to the Schools Committee of the Guardians that she was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, that his diagnosis had been confirmed by other medical men, and that it was not right for her to be with children. She was ordered to go to a sanatorium, but she refused, and she was thereupon dismissed on May 22nd, 1919.

Miss Hope called Dr. Price, senior physician at the Royal Northern Hospital, and Dr. Green, who formerly practised at South Norwood, both of whom stated that they had examined Miss Hope in January, in June, and in September, 1919, respectively, and had found no trace of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Without calling on the defendants, his Lordship held that there was no evidence of malice on the part of any of the defendants, that the pleas of privilege therefore succeeded, and that the action was barred by the Public Authorities Protection Act, 1893.