

Obituary.

HUGH FENTON, M.A., M.D.,

Consulting Surgeon to the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Hugh Fenton, consulting surgeon to the Chelsea Hospital for Women, which occurred on October 5th at his home in Herefordshire.

William Hugh Fenton was born at Shardlow in Derbyshire in 1854, his father being also a member of the medical profession, and was educated at Derby School, from which he went to Merton College, Oxford, and later to the London Hospital Medical School. He obtained honours in natural science in 1876 and a surgical scholarship in 1879, and qualified in 1880 with the diploma M.R.C.S. Three years later he obtained the L.R.C.P. and graduated M.D. Brux.

In the first years after qualifying he took up diseases of the throat as a specialty, and actually became one of the physicians to the London Throat Hospital and surgeon to the Throat Hospital, Golden Square. His association with gynaecology began in 1883, when he was appointed anaesthetist to the Chelsea Hospital for Women and became private assistant to Dr. Palfrey, who was one of the fashionable gynaecologists of the time. This association of diseases of the throat and gynaecology will appear strange to the present generation, but in the days when both of these specialties were in their infancy it was by no means uncommon. When Palfrey died Fenton took over his house in Brook Street and settled down as a practising gynaecologist there, for in 1885 he had been elected assistant physician to the Chelsea Hospital for Women, gynaecology at that time being regarded as a province of medicine. Soon after his marriage in 1887 he removed to 27, George Street, Hanover Square, and in 1893 he became one of the full physicians to the hospital. A year or two later the institution was reconstituted, but certain members of the old honorary staff were reappointed, and among them was Fenton, who was placed on the senior staff, having as his colleagues the late Dr. William Duncan and Sir John (then Mr.) Bland-Sutton.

From then onwards, till his retirement on account of age in 1914, he devoted his best energies to the welfare and advancement of the hospital. His professional work there will always be remembered by those who served with him for the conscientious way in which it was carried out, with the result that, without ostentation and in the most humble-minded spirit, he accomplished a record of surgical achievement of which any man might be proud. His skill as a diagnostician will perhaps remain most clearly in the minds of those who worked with him; he was certainly by far the most brilliant exponent of the art of vaginal examination that the writer has ever met. To posterity he will be known by two surgical instruments, the value of which has stood the test of time—Fenton's double-ended cervical dilators and Fenton's "bulldog" volsellum. But he was more than an able gynaecologist; he was a great practitioner, possessing, beyond technical skill, that wider outlook—born of kindly understanding and ready sympathy—which raises our calling from a science to an art, and few medical men have been so beloved by their patients as he was. His services to the Chelsea Hospital for Women were very great, and the more so because they were given without stint at a time when the hospital most needed them. As a colleague he will be held in affectionate remembrance by all of us who had the good fortune to be associated with him. Entirely free from that petty jealousy which too often mars the character of able men, he held the work of his colleagues in generous appreciation. He was always kindly and helpful to every member of the staff from the lowest to the highest, and was exceedingly generous to those under him.

In addition to the appointments mentioned above, he served during the war as senior surgeon to the Hammer-smith War Hospital, and as surgeon to the County of London War Hospital at Epsom. He was also physician to the Society of Lady Journalists. In the British Gynaecological Society he had filled the offices of vice-president and honorary secretary.

Hugh Fenton was a keen sportsman, and spent all his holidays fishing and shooting. The latter sport he had to give up by reason of advancing years, but the former

engaged him right up to the last year. The writer looks back with regret on many holidays spent with him in this delightful pastime, and rendered the more enjoyable by his cheery good nature and equable pleasantness. He married, in 1887, Alice Anne, eldest daughter of the late William Foster of Hornby Castle. His wife, who survives him, shared equally in the good work he did for the Chelsea Hospital for Women, and all his many friends will join in tendering to her their deepest sympathy.

V. B.

Dr. JOHN MALCOLM MACPHERSON, who died from pneumonia at Gorseinon, Glamorganshire, on October 4th, after a few days' illness, at the age of 39, had been engaged in practice in the Swansea district since the war. He received his medical education at the University of Glasgow, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1912; in 1920 he obtained the D.P.H. Wales. After qualifying he was for a time clinical clerk at the Woodilee Asylum, Glasgow, and in 1916 he removed to South Wales, where he ultimately settled down in practice at Gorseinon, near Swansea, holding also a number of part-time appointments, including those of medical officer of health for the Swansea Rural District and medical officer to the Swansea Union. He built up an extensive connexion, and was a popular figure among his colleagues and with the general public. He was a member of the British Medical Association in the Swansea Division, whose members were well represented at the funeral on October 8th. We are indebted to Dr. W. A. MacLennan for the following appreciation: My memory of the late Dr. John Malcolm Macpherson goes back for nineteen years, to our student days at Glasgow University. The acquaintanceship formed there ripened into a warm friendship when, after the war, we found ourselves in adjacent practices. His death has caused universal regret. He was held in affectionate esteem by his professional brethren, and was loved by all classes. His was a most attractive personality, and his many noble qualities of heart and mind endeared him to a large circle of loyal friends. Of a generous nature, he gave himself unstintingly in all he did. He had a keen and kindly insight into human nature, and this, coupled with his professional ability, helped him to maintain a large and successful practice. He was cut off with tragic suddenness in the flower of his manhood, and to us who were privileged to be his friends his untimely death has caused an irreparable loss.

Professor EDOUARD CHARLES ALBERT ROBIN, who died at Dijon on September 25th, was born there in 1847. After occupying the post of demonstrator in chemistry at the Faculty of Science of that city he went to Paris to study medicine; he qualified there in 1877, and won the silver medal for his inaugural thesis. He then became director of chemical research in the clinical laboratory of the Charité Hospital. In 1886 he was awarded the biennial Lacaze prize of 10,000 francs by the Faculty of Medicine for his "Leçons de clinique et de thérapeutique médicales," and in the next year was elected a member of the Académie de Médecine. Professor Robin was the first occupant of the chair of clinical therapeutics, founded about twenty years ago; he was also a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, president of honour of the international congresses of hydrology, climatology, and geology, president of the Société de Thérapeutique, and editor of the *Bulletin général de Thérapeutique* (1901) and of a *Traité de thérapeutique appliqué* (1895-97). He took an active part in the campaign against tuberculosis, and was the author of a book on the treatment of the disease, which was translated into English in 1913. His principal work, however, was his monograph on diseases of the stomach, which reached a second edition in 1904.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. OSKAR MEDIN, professor of children's diseases at the Caroline Institute of Stockholm, whose name is associated with epidemic poliomyelitis; Professor JANOWSKY of Kiev; Dr. GUILLAUME ROSSLER, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Lausanne; Dr. W. MESTREZAT of the Institut Pasteur, Paris; and Professor C. A. LEE REED, a gynaecologist of Cincinnati, aged 74.