

upon his pupils the need of bearing themselves as gentlemen in the world and of maintaining the dignity of their high calling, and he set them a fitting example. He was a leader of social life, and no prominent medical visitor ever came to Dublin without having extended to him the princely hospitality which Sir John dispensed in his splendid residence in Merrion Square. Viceroy after Viceroy dined with him privately, and only last year the present Lord Lieutenant, Lord Aberdeen, honoured him in this way. Sir John asked a dozen special guests, and after dinner proposed the Viceroy's health in a charming little speech, which, by its references to the gathering of the years, touched every one who heard it.

A few years ago a fresh pang was added to the sorrows of his declining days. Cataract appeared, and he became irretrievably blind. Yet he always kept a cheerful face to the world. His friends came to his aid with special eagerness, and nearly every day from four to six o'clock he had a regular *levée*. Seated on a sofa with a visitor on either side, he would talk of the world's news with great spirit, or relate the latest best story. He was not of those whose interest in affairs dates back to the long ago, and who only see decadence survive. His keen mind needed the stimulus of the living present, and there was none among his comparatively young visitors who could excel him in knowledge of contemporary events and views. The morning journals and the best recent literature were read to him daily. He had a wonderfully acute memory, and in conversation a stranger would be astonished at this old man's wide knowledge, his acute judgement, and the accuracy with which he was able to measure the force of events—perhaps above all by the flow of words in which he conveyed his views.

He fulfilled his duties as a landed proprietor. He was D.L. of the County Monaghan, and in 1891 he served the office of High Sheriff.

His illness was of short duration. He seems to have caught cold while calling upon the late Sir Thomas Moffett, who was his distinguished and venerable friend of many years. Bronchitis followed. Sir Francis Cruise, Professor Finny, and Sir William Thomson, all old pupils and friends, were very close in their devotion to him, but he gradually sank.

Banks, mentally and physically, was one of the noblest of men. He did credit to his profession, which he honoured by his life of devotion to duty and the generosity of his acts; and for these reasons, among many others, the memory of his name will be reverently preserved by those who hold in high respect good motives and generous deeds.

The funeral took place on Friday, when there was a large attendance of members of the various professions and of the general public. His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant was represented by several members of his staff; and the Lord Chancellor and the judges who were not at assize duties were also present. The British Medical Association was represented by Dr. J. Wallace Boyce, President, and Dr. Fred. W. Kidd, President-elect, of the Leinster Branch, and the Council of the Association by Dr. Craig. The body was first removed to Trinity College, where it was received by the Provost and Fellows, and conveyed to the chapel. There full choral service was conducted, and at its close the procession reformed and proceeded to Mount Jerome Cemetery. Here the Dean of Christ's Church Cathedral concluded the service and the coffin was deposited in the family vault.

HENRY ASHBY, M.D., LOND., F.R.C.P.,

LECTURER AND EXAMINER IN DISEASES OF CHILDREN, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY; SENIOR PHYSICIAN AT THE MANCHESTER HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

DR. HENRY ASHBY, whose death occurred at his home at Didsbury on July 6th, might well be described as the champion of the child as the father of the man, and it is difficult to estimate the loss which his death will occasion to the cause of reform as it affects the social condition of children and mothers in our large towns.

Dr. Ashby was born at Carshalton, Surrey, and at the time of his death was in his 63rd year. He belonged to a Quaker family, and his early training left impressions which he never lost. He was educated at the Ackworth

Friends' School, and for some time after leaving that school he acted as private tutor to some boys in Ireland before commencing the study of medicine in London. For many years he retained his connexion with the Quakers, only definitely leaving them about thirty years ago. Until a year ago he always enjoyed very good health, hardly knowing what it was to spend a day in bed from illness, and there can be no doubt that it was owing to his splendid constitution that he was able to do an amount of social work in addition to his professional work that few other men could have got through. Last autumn, however, it became evident to his friends that his health was failing, and recently he had to confess that a prolonged holiday abroad had done him little good, yet to the last he never lost the keen interest which he had shown during his whole life in all that concerns the welfare of children.

His medical career began at Guy's Hospital. In 1873 he obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S., and in the following year graduated M.B. Lond. At Guy's Hospital he obtained the Gold Medal for Clinical Medicine and acted for two years as assistant in the Physiological Laboratory, and also as Resident Obstetric and House Physician. In 1875 he was appointed Demonstrator in Anatomy and Physiology in the Liverpool School of Medicine and later Assistant Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary for Children. In 1878 he graduated M.D. Lond., for the second time obtaining the distinction of Gold Medal. There can be no doubt that his connexion with the Liverpool Infirmary for Children laid the foundation of his devotion to the cause of sick children that afterwards became his life's work. On leaving Liverpool about the year 1879 he settled in Manchester, commencing private practice in Lloyd Street, and later removing to St. John Street. He soon gained a reputation as an authority on the treatment of disease in children. The commencement of his career in connexion with Owens College was the appointment to be evening lecturer on animal physiology in 1880; in the following year he became Lecturer on Diseases of Children at Owens College and Victoria University, an appointment which he held to his death. For the last twenty-four years he has been examiner in this subject first in the undivided Victoria University and then in the University of Manchester. As a lecturer he was always eminently practical, seeming to disdain anything in the nature of oratorical effect. He was never content, in speaking of treatment of disease in children, simply to mention a list of drugs, but recognizing the importance in the case of children of exact dosage and the necessity of dispensing drugs in as palatable a form as possible, he almost invariably either wrote in full on the blackboard or distributed on printed slips the exact prescriptions that he was accustomed to use himself. He did not seem to favour the practice of students taking elaborate notes at lectures, and indeed the printed slips containing a summary of his lecture which he distributed at the commencement of each lecture made note-taking almost superfluous, though it often led to students trying to escape the lectures altogether, and resting content with his printed summary.

In addition to his duties as Lecturer and Examiner, he took an interest in the various medical societies of Manchester, first acting as Secretary of the Microscopical Section of the Medical Society, later as President of the Pathological Society, then President of the Medico-Ethical Association, and, lastly, President of the Medical Society. He was a member of the Pathological Society of London, and in 1904 was elected honorary member of the American Pediatric Society. In 1883 he became a member and in 1890 a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Apart from his connexion with the University of Manchester, he was perhaps best known as the Senior Physician of the Manchester Hospital for Children. He was also Honorary Consulting Physician to the School for Deaf and Dumb at Old Trafford, and the Sandlebridge Boarding Schools.

His skill in the management of children when making an examination was remarkable. Totally devoid of that fussiness which attempts, but generally fails, to get their confidence, his firm but kindly manner seemed to enable him to make a proper examination of even the most refractory child with little difficulty. He was undoubtedly one of the most popular consultants with general practitioners in Manchester.

Apart from his skill as a physician, he constantly

appeared before the public as an advocate of the prevention of disease rather than its cure. There was hardly an association in the whole district dealing with the bettering of the conditions under which the working classes live that did not call on Dr. Ashby for advice, and the Manchester Education Authority constantly turned to him for information and guidance. When the authority undertook the education of feeble-minded children he was chosen as the medical examiner, and it was largely owing to his watchful care and interest that the Swinton School, for children suffering from spinal and hip disease and paralysis, became such a success. He was also appointed examiner of epileptic children when the Education Authority in 1905 entered into an arrangement with the committee of the David Lewis Epileptic Colony for the reception of children from Manchester schools. In addition to these public offices he took the keenest interest in the voluntary society for the care and instruction of feeble-minded children at Sandlebridge. He was throughout one of the governors of the school, and its success has always given him the greatest satisfaction. The Princess Christian College of Withington also owes him a debt of gratitude, as the practical basis of its organization was due to his initiative and advice, and he always hoped and believed that the training and teaching there would become the beginning of efficient schools for mothers and of crèches. It is announced that, as a proof of their gratitude and to perpetuate his memory amongst them, the authorities of the Princess Christian College are taking steps to institute an Ashby memorial in the form of a free studentship or bursary to be held by a student at the college, and an appeal for help to establish it is already made. He was a strong advocate of the establishment of municipal crèches for motherless children or for those whose mothers had to go out to work. He also supported the provision of meals for children, free if absolutely necessary, though he always urged the propriety of compelling parents to pay for such provision if they were at all able to do so. To diminish in any way the sense of parental responsibility was, he thought, the worst way of coping with the evils. His addresses delivered to the Ancoats Healthy Homes Society were models of practical common sense, such as the most ignorant person could not fail fully to appreciate. His scathing description of what he called "feckless mothers" and "kill-me-quick feeding bottles" must have made a lasting impression that a more erudite address would have failed to make. He was especially vigorous in his denunciation of the irrational method of clothing infants with thin tight-fitting clothes, and he constantly and earnestly pleaded for the training of mothers and girls in the making of proper clothing for children, and in the general tending of infants. He saw the absolute necessity for a proper milk supply for children, and though he was opposed to the municipalization of the milk supply, he thought that the municipal authorities ought to have an extended power of supervision. In 1904, at the suggestion of the Royal College of Physicians, he gave evidence before the Committee on Physical Deterioration, and enumerated as the three principal causes of the weakness of children, "heredity, unintelligent mothering, and improper feeding." Many of the deficiencies on the part of mothers he thought to be due, not so much to poverty as to carelessness and want of common sense. He spoke of the need for proper ventilation of the homes of the working classes and strongly commended the system proposed by the Manchester Education Authority of employing a nurse to go from school to school to teach girls the elements of hygiene, especially as it affected home duties and the care of infants. There can be little doubt that the evidence he gave before the Commission was regarded as a most valuable addition to the information it collected, coming as it did from one who had had, perhaps, as much practical experience on the subject as any man living.

In spite of the many calls on his time, we owe to Dr. Ashby some most important publications, mostly dealing with diseases of children. His best known work, written in conjunction with Professor G. A. Wright, is, of course, *The Diseases of Children, Medical and Surgical*, which has reached its fifth edition, and is, perhaps, more widely used than any other book on the subject; *Notes on*

Physiology which has reached a seventh edition, *Health in the Nursery*, second edition, *Milk and Infantile Disease*, *Feeding in Relation to Infant Mortality*, besides articles in various cyclopædias and magazines far too numerous to mention.

As a man, apart from his profession, one's first impression of Dr. Ashby was that he seemed somewhat blunt and curt in manner, and it was not until, on further acquaintance, he unbent, that his genial kindness and large-heartedness revealed itself. It was often curious to observe how children seemed to read him more quickly than older persons, and it may truly be said that he gained the ambition of his life, which was to be considered the friend of the children.

He was married about twenty-nine years ago, and is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter, having lost one son at the age of six years.

The funeral ceremony took place on Wednesday, July 8th, at the Manchester Crematorium, Canon Ford of Didsbury conducting the service, and on Thursday the urn was privately placed in the family vault at St. James's Church, Rusholme. There was a large attendance of medical men at the crematorium, including Professors Stirling, Young, Steele, Wild, and Tout, of the Manchester University, and representatives from the Children's Hospital, the Dental Hospital, and Royal Schools for the Deaf and Dumb, the Salford and the Ardwick District Nurses' Homes, the Royal Infirmary, the Medical Society, the Princess Christian College, and other societies in which he had taken an interest. The Governors of the Children's Hospital, where he was Honorary Physician for twenty-nine years and a member of the Board of Governors, have passed a resolution expressing their profound sense of the loss sustained by the community in the death of a man who was so unsparingly devoted to the public good and who so unselfishly and with such exceptional skill and experience brought the resources of his profession to the relief of suffering and the improvement of the conditions of life among poor children.

At a meeting of the Manchester Education Authority last week, the Chairman, Sir J. T. Shann, moved a resolution of "profound regret at the death of Dr. Henry Ashby, their medical adviser for special schools, conveying to Mrs. Ashby and to her family this expression of their deep sympathy and their high recognition of the valuable and sympathetic services rendered to the city by Dr. Ashby, particularly in his treatment of afflicted children." Bishop Welldon, Dean of Manchester, seconded the motion, and said he had no doubt that the memory of Dr. Ashby, who had done so much for suffering humanity, would long be treasured.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. ALFRED ROBERT NICHOLLS, M.O.H. for Langport, Somersetshire. He had been in bad health for about a year, and recently his malady began to make rapid progress. In June symptoms of heart failure appeared, and his death occurred on June 8th, at the early age of 43. Dr. Nicholls, who was a student at the Middlesex Hospital, became M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1888, and spent the next eight or nine years in acquiring professional experience as an assistant and in other capacities. He settled down some eleven years ago at Langport, and took up the health duties of the district. To these he devoted himself with much assiduity, in spite of the calls of private practice. Indeed, a few years ago, when there was an outbreak of small-pox in the district of some severity, he devoted practically all his time to dealing with it, and that the disease was speedily stamped out was mainly due to his untiring efforts. The excellent fashion in which he performed his sanitary duties had attracted the attention of the Local Government Board, which in one of its published reports printed a testimony to his good work from one of its medical officers. A man of pleasant manners and professional skill, he was a favourite with his patients, and the fearlessness with which he spoke his mind concerning the public weal led to his being greatly esteemed in the neighbourhood. He made strenuous efforts to persuade his authority to provide an isolation hospital for the district, but unfortunately was destined to die without seeing his wishes fulfilled.