

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 kindliness 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.