

Obituary.

A. REITH FRASER, M.D. ABERD.,

Lecturer on Venereal Diseases, Capetown University.

ON July 10th the death of Dr. Archie Reith Fraser of Plumstead, South Africa, was announced by cable. Dr. Fraser, who was 36 years of age, was educated at the Grammar School, Aberdeen, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Marischal College early in 1914. In August of that year he took a temporary commission in the R.A.M.C. He served in France until invalided after the battle of Neuve Chapelle in 1915. On his return to duty he was with the 1st Scottish General Hospital, and later at the Scottish Command Venereal Hospital, Robroyston. He had a wide



and varied experience in the treatment of venereal diseases in these army hospitals, and his clinical and administrative abilities marked him out from the beginning. He was energetic as well as original and resourceful; all these characteristics are well shown in the papers he contributed to the medical journals and in his monograph on gonorrhoea.

In 1919 he took the M.D. degree at the University of Aberdeen, with distinction for his

thesis; in the following year he went to South Africa as a venereal specialist to the Union Government. In a few months his health broke down, and he resigned to take up the appointment of university lecturer in venereal diseases at Capetown University. Here, again, he continued to work too hard. He was honorary secretary to the Cape of Good Hope (Western) Branch of the British Medical Association, and he did most valuable work for it and the profession.

He had a charming personality, although he was downright and outright to a degree. He was a good speaker as well as an easy writer, and a caricaturist of the first water. The profession is the poorer in the loss of such a promising and able—indeed brilliant—member. He was always ready to go out in defence of the "under-dog" against all the world, and he has restored countless numbers to self-respect and self-help—in some cases kindled an inspiration where it seemed an utter impossibility. He was a very practical Christian. He leaves a widow and two children.

Dr. ALFRED COX, Medical Secretary, British Medical Association, writes:

Dr. Reith Fraser was one of the most successful honorary secretaries the British Medical Association has ever had, and was, in addition, a very brilliant and attractive personality. He radiated vitality all round him. To me he was very kind and attentive during my visits in the area of the Cape of Good Hope (Western) Branch, and he took an active part in furthering the object of my tour in South Africa. His loyalty to the Association, his tremendous enthusiasm, energy, and organizing capacity, will all be greatly missed by his colleagues in Capetown. But I am sure they will think even more, as I do, of the loss of the man, the eager, vivid personality, at the outset of a brilliant professional career; and of his wife and young family and his parents, to whom their and my heartfelt sympathy goes out.

R. H. STEEN, M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Formerly Superintendent, City of London Mental Hospital, Dartford.

WE regret to record the death, on July 12th, of Dr. Robert Hunter Steen, who was for over twenty years medical superintendent of the City of London Mental Hospital, Dartford, Kent. He was born in Belfast in 1870 and was educated in that city, graduating B.A. in the Royal University of Ireland in 1891; afterwards he became a student of St. Mary's Hospital, London, and graduated M.B.Lond., with honours in medicine, in 1894. After serving as house-physician at St. Mary's Hospital and at the Brompton Hospital for Consumption he determined to devote himself to psychiatry; he held the post of assistant at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, and at the West Sussex County Hospital, Chichester, before his appointment to Dartford in 1905; four years later he became professor of psychological medicine in King's College, London, and was subsequently appointed out-patient physician in psychological medicine to the hospital. When he retired from Dartford in 1925 he was elected emeritus professor. He graduated M.D.Lond. in 1896; he became M.R.C.P. in 1913, and was elected F.R.C.P. in 1921. He was a member of the British Medical Association; he was secretary of the Section of Psychological Medicine and Neurology of the Annual Meeting held in London in 1910, and chairman of the Dartford Division for 1911-12, and again in 1919; he was vice-chairman in 1913 and 1920, and a member of the executive committee of the Division from 1914 till 1918. He was also a member of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and had been its honorary general secretary. He contributed a number of papers to its organ the *Journal of Mental Science*, including articles on moral insanity (1913), hallucinations in the sane (1917), and chronic hallucinatory psychosis (1920). In the paper last named he argued that there were cases of this type which could be grouped together, and discussed with acumen the differential diagnosis. He attached great value to the establishment of special out-patient departments at teaching hospitals, believing that through them students would gain a knowledge of the main facts of psychological medicine and so be better able after they went into practice to diagnose disorders of the mind at an early stage.

As an administrator he was very successful, holding and expressing views as to the treatment of patients which, when he first adopted them, were perhaps rather in advance of the general opinion among his colleagues. He was anxious that neither the profession nor the public should look upon asylums as mere places of confinement, but rather regard them as hospitals in which the cure of a considerable portion of the patients might be expected.

ERNEST HENRY HOUFTON, M.D.,

Honorary Surgeon, Mansfield Hospital.

DR. ERNEST HENRY HOUFTON, who died on July 4th, aged 54, was educated at Leeds University, where he gained the entrance medical scholarship in 1889, the junior silver medal in 1889-90, and the Thorp prize for forensic medicine in 1892. In the following year he obtained the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and in 1894 graduated M.B., B.S.Lond., with honours in obstetrics; he proceeded M.D. in 1899. After holding the appointment of resident obstetric officer to the Leeds General Infirmary he commenced practice in Mansfield in 1903. He was honorary surgeon to the Mansfield Hospital and medical officer of health for the Mansfield-Woodhouse Urban District Council. He took an active interest in the Nottingham Division of the British Medical Association; he was a representative in 1913-15 and a deputy representative in 1918-20 and 1925-26. He was vice-chairman of the Division in 1920, and was a member for many years of the Contract Practice Subcommittee of the Medico-Political Committee, and of the Midland Branch Council. He was a member of the Consultative Council on Medical and Allied Services and secretary of the Notts Panel Committee.