

OBITUARY.

Dr. Hugh Grainger Stewart.

WE have to lament the death of a member of our Association, and an esteemed contributor to these pages. On the 26th ult., Dr. Hugh Grainger Stewart, Medical Superintendent of the Newcastle Borough Lunatic Asylum, died at Coxlodge, at the early age of 35, and at a time when we have reason to know he was preparing for further services to our speciality.

Dr. Grainger Stewart was born and educated in Edinburgh, where he graduated in medicine in 1856. After spending a portion of this and the following year in Paris and on the Continent, he was chosen Assistant Physician to the Royal Asylum near Dumfries, while this Institution was under the superintendence of Dr. W. A. S. Browne. He entered upon his duties there in the autumn of 1857, and so rapidly did he develop those qualities deemed requisite to a successful practice among the insane, that in the following spring a vacancy occurring in the establishment through the elevation of Dr. Browne to a Commissionership in Lunacy, the then Directors of the Asylum, with unanimity, appointed Dr. Stewart to the office of Senior Assistant. In doing this they shewed a just discrimination of his merits, while they gave him an opportunity of using profitably the records of an old and famous establishment. It was in his daily routine of work here that Dr. Stewart found leisure to write his essay on "Heredity among the Insane," and his papers on "Asylum Statistics," &c., besides reports of unusual cases to various journals.

The readers of this journal know the value of Dr. Stewart's important scientific contributions; and no better evidence of faithfully discharged duty, urbanity of manner, and evenness of temper, could be adduced than that of his successor at the Newcastle Asylum, who writes that "he found the words wanting to express the profound sorrow caused by the melancholy intelligence of Dr. Stewart's death." "Writing," he says, "from the place where good and kind Dr. Stewart was so universally loved and appreciated, my tokens of sympathy are almost lost in the general commotion created in the whole house. How, during the last hour, patients and attendants have been anxiously, almost sceptically, questioning: how the news spread from gallery to gallery, how sighs and tears and loud expressions of grief and amazement pervaded the whole establishment, is perhaps more than I can describe, but not more than you can imagine, knowing as you do how many loving hearts he has left within these walls."

In 1866 Dr. Stewart was appointed to the Superintendence of the Newcastle Asylum, and a fuller field was opened to him for displaying those essentials of asylum management which, by long study, seemed to have become a part of himself. Here he had an old and ill-adapted house to manage, at a time when he had also to superintend, arrange, and organise the new Asylum. This is not the place to say anything of the former, but everyone who has paid a visit to the new Asylum buildings will acknowledge the evidences which appeared, both in the house and grounds, of a superintending mind, highly appreciative of the artistic and beautiful. No wonder that the grief felt at his loss was deep and unusual, and that, out of a large field to choose from, the Committee of Management felt it difficult to select a successor with such qualifications as Dr. Stewart possessed.

Dr. Stewart delivered a course of lectures every year at the Infirmary, in connexion with the School of Medicine.