

and individuals, furnishing well-authenticated data on the transmission of human traits, whatever these may be. Family histories or pedigrees, twin studies and statistical researches are mainly contemplated. As research workers and others who send in material may in some cases wish to retain the sole right of publication or copyright, those who so desire are asked to accompany their material with a statement to that effect.

Reprints of published work would also be most acceptable. Many authors when publishing material may also have collected a number of pedigrees which they have been unable to reproduce in detail. It is the object of the Council that such records, by being included in the Clearing House, should not be lost. Those wishing a copy of the standard International Pedigree Symbols may obtain one from the office.

Material should be accompanied by all available details in regard to source, diagnostic symptoms, and the name and address of the person or persons who vouch for accuracy. All such details will be regarded as strictly confidential.

The other objects contemplated in this enterprise, namely, facilities for study, replies to inquiries and information service cannot be initiated for some time. An announcement of these activities will be made later.

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## OBITUARY.

### JOHN MILLS.

By the death of Dr. Mills, which occurred in a Dublin hospital on March 18, 1936, the Irish Division has lost not only its Chairman, but one of its outstanding personalities.

Dr. Mills entered mental hospital work as far back as 1891, when he became Clinical Assistant to Dr. Conolly Norman at the Richmond (now Grangegorman) Mental Hospital. In 1893—in which year he also became a Member of the Association—he was appointed Assistant Medical Officer to Ballinasloe Mental Hospital, and he was destined to remain associated with this institution for the remainder of his life, succeeding to the post of Resident Medical Superintendent in 1916.

It is indeed difficult to convey in a few words the personality of such a man as Dr. Mills. Up to his last illness he seemed possessed of an amazing energy, with an intense interest in a multitude of affairs. He never tired talking of the many improvements he had initiated, or contemplated, in his own hospital, and, just before his last illness, extensive plans for an auxiliary hospital and other improvements—costing around £300,000—had been carried through. It is said that he knew intimately every one of his two thousand odd patients, and those who knew him can well believe it.

In wider circles, also, Dr. Mills's influence was markedly felt. He was a keen antiquarian, a Member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, a staunch supporter of his Church and a prominent speaker in all her Councils. In the social life of the west of Ireland it is probable that few figures were better known than his. In his earlier days he was prominently identified with the East Galway Hunt, and throughout his life he was an ardent supporter of the Ballinasloe District Agricultural Society. Indeed, farming and the life of the country always seemed to appeal particularly to him, and he used his knowledge to increase greatly occupational therapy in farming pursuits amongst his patients. In this respect he often claimed to be a pioneer.

An arresting and witty speaker, an entertaining companion and the kindest of friends, Dr. Mills was literally loved by those who had the privilege of knowing him. He died probably as he would have wished, at the peak of his activity and with no sign of diminution in any of his many interests.

R. THOMPSON.

Dr. Leeper writes :

"It is a very great honour to me to be asked to write a tribute to my lifelong friend, Dr. John Mills, the Superintendent of Ballinasloe Mental Hospital.

"John Mills's was a personality which each and every member of the Irish Division loved and respected. He had an extremely hard "row to hoe" at Ballinasloe, yet he held ever and always, on his hands and mind, the banner of the advancement of psychiatry. He suffered cruel disappointments and failure to recognize his attainments, yet he carried on his work consistently and enthusiastically to the end. It was given to me to see and visit him in his last illness. He bore pain and great suffering with great fortitude. He was only anxious that the surgeons should operate on him before they decided to do so. This was wholly his desire, so that he could go back to his work at Ballinasloe : a stricken Crusader wanting to go back to his work, with no idea of anything in the world but a desire to advance his Hospital in its reconstruction.

"No psychiatrist will ever be more valued in the Irish Division than Dr. John Mills, because each and every one of us knew and felt in our hearts that he was with us, at all times, in the advancement of psychiatry in this country. Yes, 'Take him for all in all, we ne'er shall look upon his like again'."

#### RONALD MURRAY CLARK.

Dr. R. M. Clark, who died suddenly on March 29 at his home in Errol, Perthshire, had been in poor health for some years.

He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M., and after taking up the post of House Surgeon at Perth Royal Infirmary he entered the service of the Lancashire Asylums Board at Whittingham.

On the retirement of Dr. Gemmell shortly after the war, Dr. Clark was appointed to the vacant post of Medical Superintendent. At that time there were widespread labour unrest and demands for better conditions of service throughout the country, which made the administration of the largest mental hospital in England no easy task, but Clark was a shrewd judge of men and their capabilities, and his cautious habit of looking at problems from every aspect before coming to a decision helped him to make Whittingham an extremely well-managed and efficient hospital.

Under his rule many improvements in the fabric and lay-out of the grounds were effected, and he did not allow the exigencies of his office to prevent his taking a keen interest in the scientific work of his colleagues, and it was largely due to his encouragement that Whittingham was the first mental hospital to adopt the malarial treatment of G.P.I.

Although he had to confess that he had never seen a mongolian idiot, he was fascinated by the problem of their origin, and he contributed several papers on this subject to the *Journal*.

Dr. Clark was an ideal host with a generous and kindly disposition, and foremost among his recreations were the studies of bird life and arboriculture. It was perhaps not unfitting that his death should have occurred in his garden, surrounded by the trees and flowers he loved so well.

Dr. Clark married after his retirement, and is survived by his widow and two children.

R. M. STEWART.

#### CHISHOLM ROSS.

Dr. Chisholm Ross died on October 6, 1934. He was born on October 29, 1857, the son of one of the earliest settlers in the country districts of New South Wales. Although brought up with the intention that he should carry on his father's estate, and after spending some years in the country, he decided to enter the profession of Medicine and proceeded to Edinburgh, where he graduated in 1883, becoming a Doctor of Medicine in 1886. He was one of the first to receive the *ad eundem* degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Sydney. He entered the Mental

Hospital Service of New South Wales and became superintendent of one of the institutions in 1900. About this time he was also Lecturer in Psychological Medicine at the University of Sydney, and had the reputation of being an essentially practical teacher who was able to give the students a clear and useful insight into this aspect of medicine.

A little over thirty years before his death he left his position with the Department of Mental Hospitals to enter on private practice, and he was also appointed Visiting Medical Officer to the Reception House in Sydney, where over a thousand cases are admitted annually for observation. For thirty years he accepted the chief responsibility in deciding which cases should be sent under certificate to one or other of the mental hospitals, and it speaks well for his judgment and capacity for dealing with the patients and their relatives that his decisions were never seriously called into question.

He was highly esteemed in his practice, and up to the end of his life retained a wide and deep interest in literature.

W. S. DAWSON.

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#### NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

#### Library Lending Department Regulations.

1. Books shall be lent only to members within the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State who are not in arrears with their subscriptions.

2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.

3. Books and journals are sent carriage paid from the Library, but members are responsible for the books from the time they leave the Library until they are received back.

4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.

5. A member borrowing a book or periodical from the Library shall be required to sign and return to the Librarian a form of receipt for the same, which will be regarded as an acceptance of these Regulations.

6. A member shall be entitled to retain a book or periodical borrowed from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days, unless the book is required by another member, in which case it can be recalled by the Librarian at the expiration of fourteen days.

7. In the event of a member failing to return any book or periodical within seven days after receiving notice from the Librarian (on the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 6), the Library Committee shall be at liberty to purchase another copy, the cost to be charged to such member, who shall not be allowed to borrow another book until the sum thus expended shall have been paid.

8. All communications should be addressed to "The Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1".

#### Circulation of Journals.

The following journals are circulated from the Library:

*American Journal of Psychiatry.*

*The Psychological Review.*

*Journal of Neurology and Psychopathology.*