

him. Sir Thornley said that he was the oldest and, he believed, the dearest friend of the late Dr. Conolly Norman, whose portrait they were presenting to the College. He had known him all his life, and the longer he knew him the deeper became his esteem and affection for him. He was a man who loved his profession; his qualifications for following it were of the highest order. In Dr. Conolly Norman they had an extraordinary type of man, one in whom kindness was united with great qualities of mind. Strength of character was not often united with kindness. We often had a kind man who was not strong in mind, or a man strong in mind who was not kind. Dr. Conolly Norman's services to the medical profession and to that College were great. He did not need to dwell on them, as they were still fresh in the memory of all. Sir Thornley referred appreciatively to the care that Miss Harrison had taken with the portrait, and to the artistic result. He then formally handed the portrait over to the President and Fellows.

The President (Dr. Hawtrey Benson) said: Sir Thornley Stoker and gentlemen of this deputation, on behalf of this College, I thank you for having now committed to our care this beautiful portrait. We will care it and value it in memory of one whom we all admired and respected in no ordinary degree, and who throughout his life raised such a high standard of philanthropy, self-sacrifice, and devotion to duty. Again I thank you. (Applause.)

The deputation then withdrew.

(*Irish Times*, October 19th, 1910).

#### PRESENTATION TO SIR GEORGE P. O'FARRELL.

SIR GEORGE P. O'FARRELL, M.D., who recently retired from the office of Inspector of Lunatics, was on October 5th, 1910, the recipient of an address from the Irish Lunacy Service. The address is to be accompanied by a portrait, which is being painted. The movement to organise the presentation was inaugurated at Belfast in July at a meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association (Irish Branch), and was heartily taken up throughout the service, the honorary secretaries being Dr. William Graham, R.M.S. (Belfast), and Dr. James J. Fitzgerald, R.M.S. (Cork).

The event took place at the Shelbourne Hotel, where there was a representative gathering of all grades of the service. Sir George O'Farrell was welcomed with applause. The attendance comprised:

Dr. Charles Hetherington, R.M.S. (Londonderry), Dr. Harvey (Clonmel), Miss Sara M. E. Bernard (Dundrum), Dr. T. P. Conlan, R.M.S. (Monaghan), Dr. W. R. Dawson (Co. Dublin), Dr. Thomas Drapes, R.M.S. (Enniscorthy), Dr. Thomas Greene, R.M.S. (Carlow), Mr. James Harper (Belfast), Dr. George Lawless, R.M.S. (Armagh), Dr. R. R. Leeper, Dr. J. C. Martin, A.M.O. (Letterkenny), Dr. M. J. Nolan, R.M.S. (Downpatrick), Dr. James A. Oakshot, R.M.S. (Waterford), Dr. Patrick O'Doherty, A.M.O. (Omagh), Dr. Ed. D. O'Neill, R.M.S. (Limerick), Dr. George Revington (Dundrum), Mr. James Smith (Lunacy Office), Dr. Finnegan (Mullingar), Dr. Coffey (Maryborough), Dr. Rainsford (Stewart Institution).

Dr. Hetherington was moved to the Chair.

Dr. GRAHAM (Hon. Sec.), read letters of apology received from Dr. F. J. Ellison (Castlebar), Dr. R. Thompson (Omagh), and Mr. W. J. Ewing (Attendant, Letterkenny), as samples of the letters received from members of all grades of the service.

The CHAIRMAN said they were met to honour one who had been known to many of them for many years, and whose retirement involved a serious loss to the asylum service. Through all the years of his inspectorship it had been Sir George O'Farrell's one desire to improve the Irish asylums, and in that aim his colleague, Dr. Courtenay, had worked side by side with him all through their long years of office. Sir George's first object had been to improve the asylums for the inmates, making them as far as possible curative hospitals for those whose mental condition held out hopes of cure or improvement, and, for the rest, a retreat with such comfort as could be reasonably provided for them during their affliction. Another desire of Sir George O'Farrell had been that the staffs of asylums should be brought up to the highest standard of merit, and that there should be a reward for long years of faithful service. In this connection the Chairman instanced Sir

George's untiring interest in the passing of the Superannuation Act of 1909. They had mainly to thank Sir George O'Farrell that Ireland was included in that Bill. He (the Chairman) spoke with knowledge of what took place during the many vicissitudes of the Bill. He concluded by saying that it was the unanimous wish of all those represented there that Sir George O'Farrell would long be spared to enjoy his retirement from active official work, and assuring him that he would always get a hearty welcome whenever he visited an Irish asylum. (Applause.)

Tributes to Sir George O'Farrell's work during his twenty years of office, to his personal qualities, and the pleasant relations which he had maintained with the members of the service, were paid by Dr. Drapes (Enniscorthy), Dr. Harvey (Clonmel), Dr. O'Neill (Limerick), Dr. M. J. Nolan (Downpatrick), Dr. Finnegan (Mullingar), and Dr. Dawson (Dublin).

Dr. GRAHAM then read the address, which was enclosed in a beautifully-designed cylinder, decorated with two enamelled plates, graphically representing the difference in asylum conditions in 1890 and 1910, and resting on a pedestal of Connemara marble.

Sir GEORGE O'FARRELL, in the course of his reply, referred to his happy relations with his colleague, Dr. Courtenay, and with the staff of the Lunacy Office, and, adverting to the reference which was made in the address and the speeches to the improved condition of the insane in the different classes of asylums in Ireland, said he could not claim to have been more than a factor in effecting that improvement, for without the co-operation of all the members of the service his efforts would have been like those of Sisyphus, wearisome and unproductive. He was proud that at the end of his twenty years' service they should still hold him as their enduring friend. (Applause.)

The proceedings then concluded.  
(*Irish Times*, October 6th, 1910.)

#### OBITUARY.

ROBERT BAKER, M.D.

Born February 12th, 1843. Died August 18th, 1910.

Robert Baker was a member of an old Quaker family which for many generations lived in the Cleveland district of North Yorkshire. He was the third son of John and Mary Baker, and was born at Thirsk on February 12th, 1843. Educated at the Friends' Schools at Ackworth and York, he afterwards had a distinguished career as a medical student at Edinburgh, where he became M.D. in 1864. He also studied in Paris, and was House-Surgeon to Syme and Resident Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and President, Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh.

In 1867 he married Jane Martha Packer, of Thirsk. At one time he practised medicine in that town, but in 1872 he went to York and succeeded William Pumphrey as licensee of Lawrence House. Two years later he was appointed Medical Superintendent of The Retreat, York, which post he held until 1892, when, owing to failing health, he resigned. He remained, however, as Consulting Physician until his death on August 18th, 1910.

One of his brothers, Gilbert Baker, F.R.S., of Kew, distinguished as a botanist, is still living. His widow and one daughter and two sons survive him.

During Dr. Baker's *régime* at the Retreat this hospital for the insane was considerably enlarged by the erection of pavilions, a detached house, an adjoining property, was purchased in order to increase the accommodation for patients apart from the main buildings. He strongly advocated the use of Turkish baths in the treatment of insanity, and a very complete suite of rooms was erected for this purpose.

After a severe attack of typhoid fever, which greatly undermined his health, Dr. Baker went to America in 1884, and, accompanied by the late Dr. D. Hack Tuke, visited a number of institutions for the insane.

When there he called on the Quaker poet Whittier, then advanced in years, and afterwards he looked back with great pleasure to this interview.

Dr. Baker took a great interest in the Medico-Psychological Association, and in 1892 was elected President—the same year that the centenary of the Retreat was celebrated in York.