

Obituary.

WERNER NASSE.

Psychological Medicine has lost one of its most ardent and most intelligent workers in Professor Werner Nasse, of Bonn, who died on the 19th of January, in his 67th year, having been born in June, 1822. He was the son of Friedrich Nasse, the celebrated Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Bonn, who himself has likewise rendered great services towards the development of psychological medicine by endeavouring to study it as a branch of clinical medicine. To the father's influence on Werner Nasse's mental work we owe the latter's inaugural Dissertation (Bonn, 1845). *De singularum cerebri partium functionibus ex morborum perscrutatione indagatis*. In this excellent treatise Werner Nasse placed before himself the task of studying how far pathological changes in the brain of man throw light on the functions of the different portions of the brain. Soon after this he commenced to practise at Bonn, and at the same time he superintended a private asylum founded by himself. As, however, this work, though very successful, did not satisfy his aims, Nasse accepted in 1854 the directorship of the public asylum of Mecklenburg Schwerin at the Sachsenberg. In this position he earned not only the gratitude of the principality, and of its Grand Duke, who made him his physician in ordinary, but he acquired also great influence on the management of the insane throughout Germany. In order to exercise this influence in his own native country, the Rhenish Provinces of Prussia, he accepted in 1863 the Direction of the large and once famous asylum at Siegburg, near Bonn, which had fallen into a deplorable condition. He had to break with the past, and had to fight all the prejudices, the vested interests, and the abuses connected with this great establishment which had in the old days of Max. Jacobi been justly regarded as an ornament of the Rhenish Provinces. The hygienic arrangements of Siegburg were very bad, and they cost Werner Nasse the happiness of his life by depriving him in 1864, through typhoid fever, of his first wife, and about twelve years later of his second wife through puerperal fever. In spite of these misfortunes, and of multifarious opposition, partly due to the great claims on the treasury inseparable from the large reforms required, he continued the battle of his life and succeeded at last in establishing five great new asylums in the different provinces.

Nasse was supported by the sympathy and esteem of his professional brethren; he was, therefore, elected and constantly re-elected President of the Society for Psychological Medicine in the Rhenish Provinces, and also of the larger society of the whole of Germany. In addition to this he succeeded in establishing a great Society for combating the abuses of alcoholic stimulants which he regarded as a frequent cause of insanity, and as one of the banes of the Teutonic races; and he acted also as President of this Society. He was specially fit for these honorary duties by his noble character, his judicious and conciliatory manner, his highly cultivated mind, and his imposing personal presence. Great as these taxes on his strength were, he allowed another to be added in 1881 by the Professorship of Psychological Medicine at the University in Bonn, in connection with his duties as Director of the Provincial asylum at that place.

Nasse was one of the most conscientious workers, always the first at his post in the morning, and the last at night. He took a leading share in the work of all his junior colleagues and assistants.

Dr. Pelman, the author of a "Nekrolog," just published in the "Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie," Vol. xlvi., who himself had been in former years associated with Nasse as junior physician, says of him: "Never have I seen a more careful physician than he was, never a man whose manner at the bedside was more agreeable, and had a more calming influence on the patient." The work, however, was too much even for his gigantic frame. The writer of this short article,

who had been intimately acquainted with Nasse from early life, repeatedly endeavoured to make him see this, and to limit his duties, but in vain. When, at a visit last autumn, he had hoped to be more successful, it was too late; the heart and the blood-vessels had commenced to give way, and an apparently trifling traumatic lesion of one of the great toes led to a kind of senile gangrene.

Werner Nasse presented a remarkable instance of what some would call inheritance of talent from his highly gifted father and mother, the more so as his three brothers are all equally distinguished in other spheres of life, and as his three sisters *mutatis mutandis* were the same. In reality, however, inheritance in this family as in others played only a secondary part, compared with the careful early training and with the stimulus of example which one member of the family gave to the other.

H. W.

ALFRED EVERLEY TAYLOR, L.B.C.P., L.R.C.S.

It is with much regret that we record in our obituary the death of Mr. Alfred Everley Taylor, Senior Assistant Medical Officer of the County Asylum, Stafford, which occurred on March 30th, under circumstances peculiarly sad. His name must be added to the not inconsiderable list of asylum medical officers who have died in harness, and have been prematurely cut off as the direct result of disease or injury obtained in the discharge of their duty.

Mr. Taylor, who was the youngest son of the late Mr. William Taylor, of Scarborough, a well-known and highly esteemed member of the medical profession, had nearly completed his thirtieth year. He was educated at St. Mary's Hospital, qualified in 1883, and had been for the past four and a half years an Assistant Medical Officer at the County Asylum, Stafford. In the course of his brief career he shaped his conduct by an unflinching sense of duty, and never spared himself in the discharge of his work. Indeed, his thoroughness and devotion to work may be said to have cost him his life, the fatal illness being an attack of acute septicæmia resulting from pricking his finger slightly with the scalpel while making a post-mortem examination of the body of a patient who had died from acute laryngitis and pneumonia.

Mr. Taylor was of a literary turn and accomplished in his vocation, though he never contributed to medical literature. He was an ideal asylum physician, conscientious in his work, enthusiastic in his profession, skilled and thoughtful in the medical care of his patients, entering heart and soul into all the amusements and recreations, and playing regularly in the asylum band. His warm-hearted, genial, and thoroughly generous disposition had drawn round him a wide circle of friends, and his premature end has come as a shock to many who, like the writer, had seen him but a short time previously in the enjoyment of robust health. By his death a gifted and promising career has been cut short, and the Stafford Asylum has to mourn the loss of a valuable and highly conscientious medical officer.

JAMES MACLAREN, F.R.C.S.E.

It was with regret and surprise that the news of the death of Mr. James Maclaren was received by his numerous friends. He died at his residence at Larbert on the 25th of March last from pleurisy, after an illness of three days' duration. He died at the comparatively early age of 40, but, though so young