

Dr. NORMAN thought the first case particularly interesting, and considered that the rupture was probably due to atheroma of the coronary artery, one branch of which was as hard as bone, and was probably blocked further on. In his own practice he had seen two cases of rupture of the heart, and one in which the heart was greatly thinned owing to occlusion of the coronary artery.

A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Rainsford for his kind hospitality was then passed on the proposal of Dr. DRAPES, seconded by Dr. NORMAN, and Dr. RAINSFORD having responded the proceedings terminated.

DOWN DISTRICT ASYLUM.

PRESENTATION TO DR. NOLAN.

The Committee of Management of Down District Lunatic Asylum, after the transaction of the business of the monthly meeting in April last, paid a signal compliment to Dr. M. J. Nolan, the esteemed Resident Medical Superintendent.

The members of the present Committee, elected three years ago, in conjunction with the members of the Committee for 1899—1902, to mark their appreciation of the efficient manner in which Dr. Nolan has conducted the asylum since his appointment to the position of Resident Medical Superintendent close on twelve years ago, made him the recipient of a congratulatory address and gold watch, and Mrs. Nolan an autograph silver salver. On the watch were inscribed, outside the case, crest, motto, "Justa Sequor," and monogram; inside, "Presented to Dr. M. J. Nolan, R.M.S., Down District Asylum, by the Committee of Management, 1899—1905." On the salver, below the crest, etc., was inscribed, "Presented to Dr. and Mrs. Nolan by the Committees of Management, Down District Asylum, 1899—1905, as a token of their esteem."

The Chairman said that they were no doubt all aware that it had been arranged to make some acknowledgment to Dr. Nolan of the great zeal and capacity which he had shown in conducting the affairs of the asylum during the time the Committee had been in office. Colonel Sharman-Crawford and Mr. Russell had been deputed to carry out the idea, and he now requested the former gentleman to read the apologies, and Mr. Russell to read the address. He might, perhaps, be permitted to say that, as the oldest member of the Committee, he could testify to the steady improvement which had been carried out in almost every department of the asylum since Dr. Nolan became Medical Superintendent.

Mr. Andrews, speaking in the name of the Committee, said that, having had the privilege of acting as treasurer for the presentation, he wished to say that he had never been associated with any object or acted as treasurer in any case in which contributions were sent in so cheerfully and so pleasantly as in this case. Each member who wrote expressed the general indebtedness to Dr. Nolan, and the great pleasure that the donor had in forwarding his contribution.

The Chairman having made the presentation, Dr. Nolan assured the Committee how much he was touched by their great kindness—kindness so unexpected, so unanimous, so spontaneous, that it was a reward such as he could not think he deserved.—*The Down Recorder*, April 22nd, 1905.

OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN SIBBALD, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin.

By the death of Sir John Sibbald, President Elect of the Medico-Psychological Association, ex-Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland, psychiatric medicine has lost one of its foremost and wisest exponents.

In the end of 1904 an affection of his throat appeared, which quickly assumed a serious character, and permitted no hope of ultimate recovery. He faced the issue

with the calm courage of a good man, and the end came mercifully soon. He died from heart failure on April 20th at the age of seventy-two. To the last he retained unabated interest in the specialty to which his life had been given, and was doing consultation work two months before his death.

Sir John was the son of a banker, was born and educated in Edinburgh, and was a graduate of its University. After increasing his experience by hospital residence and a short period of private practice, he began asylum work under Dr. Skae at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, where he was for several years an Assistant Physician; the late Dr. McCullough, of the Abergavenny Asylum, the late Dr. Young, Professor of Natural History in Glasgow University, Dr. Yellowlees, and Dr. Clouston were among his colleagues there. The work was most congenial to him, alike in its practical and its scientific aspects, and was admirably performed.

In 1862 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Argyllshire Asylum at Lochgilphead, which he organised and opened, and of which he was a most efficient head. He was the first to show—the remote position of the asylum greatly favouring the experiment—that it was possible to dispense with airing courts in a county asylum. Only those who knew the dismal, walled courts of that period, so unlike the pleasant gardens of to-day, can understand how great an advance was thus originated.

In 1870 Dr. Sibbald was appointed Deputy Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland. The duties of that office include the visitation of patients in private dwellings, and he became, after much practical knowledge of its working and its results, an earnest supporter of the "boarding out" system as practised in Scotland.

In 1878, on the death of Sir James Coxe, Dr. Sibbald was appointed Commissioner in Lunacy, and for twenty-one years did solid and admirable work for the insane in Scotland, and earnestly furthered whatever could promote their welfare. His mind was eminently judicial, and he was distinguished by calm and sound judgment, and wise and wide views of every subject. His opinions, once formed, were firmly held and ably defended. He often silenced an eager advocate of change by a single question, showing considerations which had been overlooked or consequences which had been forgotten. His wise and well-considered opinions had always great weight in the counsels of the Commission.

Visits to Gheel and Alt Scherbitz convinced him of the great value of the cottage system of asylum construction, and the county asylums of Aberdeen and Midlothian are monuments of his influence.

Sir John's intercourse with others, whether professional colleagues or friends of patients, was marked by kind and courteous consideration, and his relations with the asylum superintendents were always those which are happily traditional in Scotland. He was no mere inspector, but an honoured friend, who could see and censure faults, but could also see and appreciate merits, who understood the difficulties of asylum work, and was always ready with sympathy and counsel.

In private life Sir John was a genial cultured gentleman, with many intellectual interests, a singularly open mind, strong common-sense, great toleration for others, the highest moral tone, a warm heart, and a happy gift of humour.

On his retiral from office in 1899, by reason of the age limit, he received the honour of knighthood in recognition of his public services, and was presented by his friends and colleagues with his portrait, painted by Sir George Reid, President of the Royal Scottish Academy. The portrait has been admirably reproduced for this JOURNAL, of which Dr. Sibbald was at one time joint editor.

DR. HENRY PUTNAM STEARNS.

We regret to record the death, at the age of seventy-seven, of Dr. Henry Putnam Stearns, an Honorary Member of the Association, which occurred on May 27th, 1905.

He was for over thirty-one years Physician and Superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane at Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., which office he resigned only two months before his death. He was held in the highest regard both personally and professionally in Hartford, and throughout the specialty in America. Dr. Stearns was one of the pioneers in America of the humane treatment of the insane, and the Hartford Retreat became widely known as one of the best institutions in the country. As a specialist and an author Dr. Stearns was in high repute, and he was a Past President of the American Medico-Psychological Association.