

regret of all his friends this hope has not been realised, and we have to deplore his demise at a comparatively early age.

"In the profession generally, and also in the medico-psychological branch of it, Dr. Morrison was regarded as a sound authority in his speciality and a successful superintendent and administrator. He was for many years a prominent member of the Medico-Psychological Association and the British Medical Association, and for a considerable period he acted, with much acceptance, as Secretary to the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Branch of the latter body, and quite lately as its President.

"In 1911 he was Vice-President and Secretary of the Neurological Section at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, and he also gave valuable service to the old-established Herefordshire Medical Society. In these capacities he proved himself to be a man of many parts and generous sympathies.

"During his occupancy of the office of Superintendent at Burghill he saw great additions and improvements, with every one of which he was associated and for which he had unflinchingly laboured, thinking always of the comfort and well-being of the unfortunate people under his charge. For the welfare of the institution he gave of his very best, and so high was his sense of duty, that even trivial details were not deemed too unimportant to engage his personal attention. The result of such devotion to duty, and the extra strain in several directions which he lately encountered no doubt contributed largely to his breakdown in health. In the committee room and at Association meetings Dr. Morrison was a forceful and convincing speaker. He upheld his views strongly when once convinced that they were sound, and was not slow to unmask anything which savoured of opportunism. Whatever he undertook he did it with all his might, without a thought of self or reward. Dr. Morrison did not make a great many really intimate friends; but to the few who had the privilege of his intimacy he gave the firm hand of friendship which lasted for all time. His was a large-hearted and generous nature which radiated sympathy and kindness to all those who came within its reach. Upright, unselfish to a fault, with a high sense of duty and universally beloved, he possessed a personality which will live in the memory of all who knew him."

DR. W. H. MACFARLANE.

On August 2nd, 1915, from heart failure, Dr. W. H. Macfarlane, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, Tasmania. (Communicated by Dr. G. F. Read.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

SIRS,—Dr. Mercier, in your January issue, defines "cause" as "the necessary connection between an action and the sequent change, or accompanying unchange, in the thing acted on." He had previously suggested that any circumstance which prevents a change should be called the "reason" rather than the cause of the "unchange." This is a good distinction, though it seems to put out of action the alternative clause in his definition. I do not, however, write to find fault, but to show how it is possible to come still nearer to the basis of the idea of causation by recognising yet another distinction—namely, that between cause and occasion. For example, in the case of Newton's traditional apple, the cause of the fall was gravity, the occasion was doubtless the giving way of the stalk. The following considerations will explain the distinction and show its importance.

Change is not supposed to take place *per saltum*; it is always regarded as a continuous process. A process of change in any system may be called complete when it begins from one state of static equilibrium and ends in another such state. Every process takes place by virtue of an expenditure of energy, and (when the whole of the system involved in a complete process is taken into account) the potential energy of the final state is always less than that of the initial state. Any process may be considered under two aspects, either (1) as a change *from* the equilibrium of greater potential energy, or (2) as a change *to* the equilibrium of less potential energy. Under the former aspect it is called the cause; under the latter aspect it is called the effect.