

OBITUARY.

DR. EDWIN LINDSAY DUNN,

Late Medical Superintendent of the Berkshire Asylum, Wallingford.

I FEEL great diffidence in writing the obituary notice of Edwin Lindsay Dunn, for I realise how inadequate is my pen to do full justice to the task. The son of the late Mr. Robert Dunn, of Dunfield, Waterside, Ireland, he was born in 1865 and received his early education at Foyle College, Londonderry, winning a scholarship in 1876. The examiner on that occasion was Mr. J. H. M. Campbell, then Scholar and Senior Moderator of Trinity College, Dublin, who reported on "the splendid answering in every subject of Dunn." He thus gave evidence, even at so tender an age, of those remarkable talents which characterised his more mature years. His school career was throughout most brilliant, and after being an Intermediate Exhibitioner 1879-1880 and a Matriculation Exhibitioner, R.U.I., 1881, he entered Trinity College, Dublin, as First Junior Exhibitioner in 1882. There he continued his successful career, taking his B.A. degree with Honours in Classics and English Literature. He then decided upon medicine as a profession, and after taking Honours in Anatomy, and incidentally holding the posts of Resident Pupil, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, Clinical Clerk and Surgical Dresser, Sir P. Dun's Hospital, Dublin, and Prosector to the University Anatomist, he received the degrees of M.B., B.Ch. in 1887. He was later appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Children's Infirmary, Liverpool, Assistant Surgeon, Liverpool Dispensaries, and, upon adopting lunacy practice as a career, Assistant Medical Officer at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield. At Wakefield Asylum he made several contributions to medical literature, including "Cases of Epilepsy Treated by Amylene Hydrate," "Case of Softening of the Sensory Tract of Internal Capsule," and "Case of Homonymous Hemianopsia." Dunn's paper on "Paranoia," read at the Psychology Section of the British Medical Association at Nottingham in July, 1892, was a noteworthy addition to our knowledge of that disease, although cases had been recognised in England before then. He was a member of the Medico-Psychological Association, a member of many years' standing of the British Medical Association, and a prominent member of the Reading Pathological Society. He was appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer and Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Berkshire Asylum, Wallingford, in 1894, and on the death of Dr. Murdoch succeeded him as Medical Superintendent.

Outside his professional work, literature, Freemasonry and sport appealed most to him. At school he was a member of the Fifteen and a good runner, at Trinity College, Dublin, a prominent oarsman, rowing for the University Boat Club and winning many races, and a member of the University Fifteen. He also played for the famous Wanderers Club, but although well in the running for International honours was not capped for Ireland—a fact which always caused him keen regret. He was fond of shooting and golf, and a good fisherman, his proudest trophy being a fine Thames trout, scaling 7½ lbs., which he caught at Pangbourne.

Dunn was an enthusiastic Freemason, and was installed Worshipful Master of the St. Hilda Lodge, Wallingford, in 1890. He excelled as a raconteur and after-dinner speaker, and a speech he once made in aid of the Masonic Charities will live in the history of the St. Hilda Lodge.

He was extremely well-read, and could talk with knowledge, and in his own delightfully original way, on any subject. Politics, religion—his knowledge of the Bible was profound—science, sport, literature, nothing came amiss to him. He read Greek for pleasure, and was very fond of French literature.

He was a true Irishman, genial, quick-tempered, impulsive, generous to a fault, the soul of hospitality, extremely witty, excellent at repartee. I remember his once being stopped in Oxford by a particularly dirty tramp, who tried to sell him a cake of soap, and Dunn's reply, "I'm afraid you can't spare it, my man, but here's twopence for you." His laugh, apart from his sunny disposition and high spirits, was the most infectious thing about him. No one who ever heard it could readily forget it. He had a genius for making friends and for keeping them, and his red jovial face, merry blue eye and inimitable laugh will be sadly missed. The Visiting Committee of the Asylum were his personal friends; he was beloved by his patients and staff, to whom his sympathy, advice and help were always open.

A devoted son and brother, his mother's death a few years ago was a great blow to him. His own death occurred on January 12th, after several weeks of great pain and suffering borne with wonderful patience and fortitude. He was unmarried. He leaves a sister to mourn his loss, and to her I am indebted for much of the information here recorded.

P. C. COOMBS.

Dr. J. BARFIELD ADAMS.

The short illness and sudden death, at the age of sixty, of Dr. J. Barfield Adams on February 20th, 1920, while returning from some professional call, came as a great shock to his medical brethren in North Bristol, where he had practised in general medicine for over thirty-five years. About eight years previously he had had to take a rare and enforced holiday in Holland and Belgium and Northern France owing to a first attack of angina pectoris, but he returned to his duties quite as devotedly and almost as strenuously as before, and carried on ever since. Though he had repeated warnings of the same kind, and his heart must have latterly begun to fail seriously, none of us who saw him in the last few weeks and even on the day of his death, going about much as usual, had any suspicion of impending danger; the more so as he had always been a man of great reserve where he himself was personally concerned.

He received his medical education in the Edinburgh University and Extra Mural Medical School, and obtained the Edinburgh Triple Qualification in 1882. From the interest he took and the knowledge he displayed in matters medico-psychological I think he must have had asylum experience, though I have no record as yet as to where he did duty. For the last dozen years he held the responsible post of Medical Officer to the Bristol Colston's Girls' School. He became a member of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1913, and about the same time obtained the Certificate in Psychological Medicine of the Association. While his chosen life-work was to be a general medical practitioner of the best type, he was one of these medical men (all too few as yet) who take an intense interest in psychiatry as bearing on their daily work in medicine. Long and happily married, he left no children to mourn his loss.

In the last few years, and more especially during the war, he undertook regular work for the *Journal of Mental Science*, and contributed valuable critical epitomes of current medico-psychological literature, irradiating his views with sympathy, humour, and occasionally with gentle dissent. Himself a literary artist and a master of style, he also contributed two original delightful critical studies to the *Journal of Mental Science*, namely "Zola's Study of Heredity" (July, 1916), and a complementary "Zola's Studies in Mental Disease" (April, 1917). A discriminating admirer of one whom he dubbed "Master," he freely points out where he thinks Zola failed to be quite true to nature in some of his cameos of insane and degenerate characters. In a third contribution to the Journal, "The Orientation of Human and Animal Figures in Art" (October, 1917), he successfully broke new ground, revealing a wealth of erudition and a playfulness of humour worthy of De Quincey, combined with an insight into pictorial art, and a personal acquaintance with experimental pedagogics quite remarkable. In the same vein about the same time he contributed two essays on Zola to other journals entitled "The Doctors in Zola's History of the Rougon-Mackquart Family," and "Dr. Pascal Rougon: Zola's Study of a Savant."

He told me once that after graduating he had toured on a bicycle throughout the highways and bye-ways of Northern France, with a view mainly to a study of French ecclesiastical architecture. Each cathedral was to him no mere local lion, but an organic whole, showing in the details of its structure within and without its own particular history and that of the ages it had weathered. He was a finished French scholar both in speech and in literary knowledge. In later years he took up the study of Italian ("The Doctors in the Decameron"), Spanish, and even Welsh ("Medicine and Surgery in the Mabimogion"). Whether he ever studied the "gentle German language" is not very apparent; if he did (as is possible) he allowed no pestilent whiff of latter-day Teutonic kultur to obscure his clear vision into Gallic *esprit*.