

to go into Guy's Hospital for treatment. His Committee reported in February, 1925: "The Medical Superintendent has continued to discharge the duties of his position in an admirable manner deserving of our highest commendation, but we regret to report that for some months we have been deprived of his valuable services owing to his ill-health." In June, 1925, his resignation became imperative, and he retired to Sutherland Avenue, Bexhill; there, during a period of improvement which sadly proved to be but transient, a visit from his Chairman, Sir George Wyatt Truscott, gave him very great pleasure. But after all his strenuous life he was not destined to any quiet enjoyment of rest; a recurrence of cardiac pain and a failing heart confined him to bed, where he was heroically nursed, day and night, by his devoted wife, through sufferings which he bore patiently and uncomplainingly till death came as a merciful release.

Personally, Robert Hunter Steen was a man of sterling character, always bright and cheerful, genial, kindly and courteous. He was fond of cricket and all games, and of yachting; a lover of music and, in his younger days, of acting. He could stage-manage and give a capital performance in farcical plays, providing that best of medicines for the mind—uproarious laughter.

He was a broad-minded, sympathetic and experienced physician, true to his duty, managing with tact, gentleness and firmness, ever striving to improve his hospital and to make it all that a hospital should be. He earned the respect of his staff, the affection of his patients, and the full confidence of their relatives. A man of firm faith and high principle he set forth a good example, and his memory will long live at Dartford.

The *Times* of July 20 printed a contribution by his old and valued friend Dr. Leeson, from which may be quoted: "A man of blameless life, selfless in the highest degree and beloved by all who knew him, he passed his devoted and beneficent life amongst the 'sweet bells jangled out of tune.'" To which it may be appropriately added that he was one "whose faith and works were bells of full accord."

H. A. KIDD.

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JOHN JONES GASPERINE, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., D.P.H., D.P.M.

Ordinary Member since 1922.

A telegram from New York on Saturday, August 14, conveyed the sad news of the tragic death on the previous night of Dr. J. J. Gasperine, who died from the injury received when diving at Long Beach. He was acting as surgeon of the "Tuscania," but up to recently was Medical Superintendent, Rendlesham Hall, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

He was born in co. Tyrone, Ireland, and was 36 years of age at death. He joined the Royal Navy in August, 1914, as a student of Edinburgh University, and subsequently obtained leave to qualify in medicine and surgery, which he did from Bart.'s Medical School in 1916 as M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.R.C.P.Lond., and returned to the Naval Service, where he did good work, chiefly in relation to the prevalence of venereal diseases. He was demobilized in January, 1919, and at once became Clinical Assistant and then House Physician at St. Bartholomew's Hospital until July of the same year. He also was Assistant Pathologist, London Lock Hospital, until November, 1919. After a period of general practice he joined the London County Mental Hospital Service at Hanwell in February, 1921, and was transferred to Horton Mental Hospital in August of the same year, leaving the service for private reasons in August, 1923. He took his D.P.H. in 1921, and his D.P.M. in 1922. He had two periods of special leave in America for family reasons, and on both occasions occupied his spare time working at Manhattan State Hospital. He was very fond of roaming the world, and left his appointment at Rendlesham Hall to return to sea life. The writer was well acquainted with Dr. Gasperine. He was a fearless and adventurous man, a clever clinician and pathologist, and an expert in the modern technique of the investigation of venereal diseases. He did much original work, which unfortunately he was never able to finish. He was a good companion, well travelled, and had had many strange adventures, of which he loved to tell. Needless to say he left many friends, who now mourn his loss. He was most happily married, and our sincere condolence goes out to his widow in her sad bereavement. His body was brought to England for burial, which took place at Hampstead on August 27, 1926.

J. R. LORD.

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