The eldest son of an Edinburgh medical practitioner, he graduated at Edinburgh University in 1896, and gained the degree of M.D., with commendation, two years later.

In December, 1896, he was appointed Assistant Medical Officer at Perth District Asylum, Murthly, and in 1898 acted as interim Medical Superintendent, pending the appointment of Dr. Lewis C. Bruce to succeed Dr. G. M. Robertson on the latter's promotion to the Superintendentship of Stirling District Asylum, Larbert. At Murthly Dr. Alexander was fortunate to be associated with Bruce, whose valuable researches were to him a source of great inspiration.

He became in 1901 Senior Assistant Physician at the Royal Asylum, Aberdeen, where, as Dr. Reid's deputy, he had ample scope for further developing his administrative ability.

On his appointment to Kingseat in September, 1906, he took charge of an institution erected on the colony system, the first of its kind in operation in Scotland, and which had been ably administered since 1904 by his predecessor, Dr. Angus. By his indefatigable energy he succeeded in keeping well abreast of the times, both in his clinical and administrative work, effecting many improvements and increasing the accommodation to meet every need of his patients.

That his life-work was no light task can be realized when it is known that in providing for his patients, who now number nearly 800—or double that in 1906—he maintained the highest standards of modern administration and treatment. In spite of his busy life, he contributed to medical literature both in the *Journal of Mental Science* and the *Lancet*, and from time to time did reviewing and abstracting for the *Review of Neurology and Psychiatry* and other medical publications. What little time he had to spare was keenly enjoyed in golf and cricket.

A feature of his management was the large percentage of patients to whom he gave *parole*, both within and outside the grounds, while he provided ample outdoor recreation for all in the institution. His boundless tact, combined with a genial and kindly disposition, and the fact that he made his mental hospital his hobby, served to make him very popular among his "own people" and highly esteemed by all who knew him.

Walter Smith Kay, M.D., C.M.Edin.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr. Walter Smith Kay, which occurred suddenly on April 22 last. As the head for many years of the South Yorkshire Mental Hospital at Wadsley, he will be remembered by many who were his colleagues or who worked under him.

Born in 1855, he was educated at the Edinburgh High School, where he took numerous prizes and distinctions, and where he was contemporary with Sir Robert Philip and the late Sir David Yule. He passed his final examination for the M.B. at Edinburgh University in 1876, though he was unable to graduate until the following year, as he was under twenty-one at the time of the examination. This year of waiting he spent at the Paris medical schools, attending the clinical lectures, at that time famous, of Charcot at the Salpêtrière. After a short period in general practice he joined the staff of Wadsley Asylum. In 1888, on the retirement of Dr. Mitchell, he was appointed Medical Superintendent. He remained at Wadsley until 1911. After his retirement he lived at Harrogate, but during the war he returned to active medical work. He assisted Dr. Hayes Newington at Ticehurst, and also sat on various medical boards as a neurologist.

Dr. Kay took an unfailing interest in all matters connected with psychiatry. By his will he leaves the munificent sum of £5,000 to the University of Edinburgh for the further endowment of the Chair of Psychiatry and the advancement of the study of mental disorders.

NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The following books have recently been added to the Library:

Family Council Law in Europe, 1930 (presented by the Eugenics Society.)
Mental Invalids. Easterbrook. 1925.
Performance Tests of Intelligence. Drever and Collins. 1928.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.77.318.666-a Published online by Cambridge University Press

The following journals are circulated from the Library:

American Journal of Psychiatry.
The Psychological Review.
Journal of Neurology and Psychopathology.
L'Encéphale.
International Journal of Psycho-Analysis.
Journal of Abnormal Psychology.
Mental Hygiene.
Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases.
Revue Neurologique.
Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry.
Journal of Comparative Psychology.

Members are requested to return all long-outstanding books to the Library as soon as possible for the purpose of cataloguing.

Members are invited to make gifts to the Library to assist in building up a historical collection of psychiatric works from the seventeenth century onwards. In selecting books for presentation, members are advised to consult the Hon. Librarian to see what books the Library possesses and those it is desirable it should possess.

The Librarian is prepared to obtain for members practically any book on psychiatry and allied subjects. Books can be despatched to members on payment of postage.

All communications concerning Books, Journals or Library matters should be addressed "Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 19b, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1."

NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

Bronze Medal and Prize for 1932.

Dissertations for the Association's Bronze Medal and Prize must be delivered to the Registrar by April 30, 1932.

Divisional Prizes for 1932.

Papers certified as eligible for this competition must be forwarded to the Registrar not later than April 30, 1932.

Gaskell Medal and Prize.

The examination for the Gaskell Medal and Prize and the examination for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine will be held at the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, in May, 1932.

Applications for entry to each examination to be made to the Registrar, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

There is no fee for entrance to the Gaskell Prize Examination.

The entrance fee for the examination for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine is three guineas.

The Nursing Badge.

This Badge, founded at the Annual Meeting (Wakefield), July 11, 1928, can now be obtained from the Registrar. The application must be made on a special form and accompanied by 6s., which includes the cost of engraving the name and registration number of the holder.

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