

Obituary.

DR. ALFRED IRA NOBLE.

Dr. Alfred Ira Noble was born in Fairfield, Me., March 3, 1856, and died in Detroit, Mich., on January 20, 1916.

He received the degree of A. B. from Colby College, Maine, in 1883, and M. D. from Bowdoin College in 1886. He was united in marriage with Ella Annie Boole, August 27, 1887. He engaged in the practice of medicine in Boston for one year, then became associated with the Worcester State Hospital as first assistant physician, and later as assistant superintendent. He held the latter position until 1905, when he received the appointment of medical superintendent of the Kalamazoo State Hospital at Kalamazoo, Mich., which position he held at the time of his death.

For a number of years the doctor was secretary of the New England Psychological Society. He was a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and member of the Worcester Medical Association, the American Medico-Psychological Association, the Detroit Society of Neurology and Psychiatry, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Noble contributed from time to time to medical literature and to the general public well-prepared and exceedingly instructive essays on live medical and sociological topics. A paper on "Shorter Hours for Nurses and Attendants," published in the proceedings of the American Medico-Psychological Association, marked the beginning of an important change in hospital management. A paper on "The Curability of Insanity," read before the Detroit Society of Neurology and Psychiatry, presents some statistics most carefully collated by him personally, and demonstrates convincingly that the percentage of recoveries given by most of us is altogether too high.

During his administration at the Kalamazoo State Hospital he planned and directed the construction of Van Deusen Hospital,

a receiving hospital for women equipped with modern apparatus for treatment. He also constructed a laboratory for pathological and research work. The Doctor also recognized and emphasized the value of occupation, not only as a curative measure, but as a means of education in chronic custodial cases, thereby developing them into useful members of a hospital community. Through his efforts a large industrial building is in process of construction, which, although he did not live to see completed, will stand as a monument to him in this direction. One of his last acts was the advancing of the standard of the training school for nurses, raising the requirements for admission, extending the course to three years, and requiring nine months' training in some general hospital. Dr. Noble was very conservative, yet always progressive, a man of high ideals, a gentleman, and he possessed a wealth of tact, diplomacy and genuineness that won the confidence of and made lasting friendships with the public, his patients and his associates.

His remains were taken to Boston, Mass., for interment.

DR. GEORGE HAMILTON SCHWINN.

Dr. George Hamilton Schwinn was born January 11, 1873, in Baltimore, received his preliminary education in the public schools of that city, and graduated from the Maryland College of Pharmacy in 1894. He then came to Washington and entered the Columbian University Medical School, now known as the George Washington University, graduating in 1898. Shortly thereafter, in July of that year, he was appointed Clinical Interne in the Government Hospital for the Insane under the late Dr. Godding. Gaining promotion step by step, in January, 1911, he succeeded the late Dr. Stack as first assistant, which position he held until his death.

In 1902 he married Miss Elvira Gaddess of Washington, D. C. His wife and twin sons, George Hamilton and Gordon G., born in 1904, survive him.

In the spring of 1914 Dr. Schwinn's health became much impaired. He was confined to his bed several weeks, and as soon as he was strong enough to travel he went to Saranac Lake, N. Y. where he spent the summer. The rest and treatment there greatly

benefited him, and he returned to his duties at the hospital early in November buoyed up with the hopes of an ultimate cure. The following spring, however, the appearance of certain symptoms alarmed his family and friends, and in July, 1915, he went to the foot hills of the mountains near The Plains, Virginia. The summer spent there proved of little benefit, and much discouraged he felt it incumbent upon himself to return to his duties. It was now evident that his malady was firmly established. He clearly appreciated the outcome, and with never a murmur of complaint, against the advice of his friends, he endeavored to keep up with his work when it was to be seen that his health suffered in consequence. In January, 1916, his illness assumed a more acute form. He grew rapidly weaker, and with pathetic patience he awaited the inevitable end, which came February 6, 1916, in his apartments in the hospital.

Dr. Schwinn was first of all a man of the highest honor, and in this trait of character were embodied all its attributes. He was a devoted and self-sacrificing husband and father, a faithful and generous friend. Serving his entire practice of nearly eighteen years in the Government Hospital for the Insane he was the ideal type of institutional physician, ever loyal to the hospital, patient, sympathetic, gentle in speech, and noted for the deep and personal interest he took in his patients and their friends. Of these latter there came to his bier many who in sorrow told of their loss and of the deep debt of gratitude they owed to the man who ever patiently by the hour listened to their woes, adjusted their difficulties and sent them home with a sense of peace and comfort.

Dr. Schwinn was the author of the following: "Some of the Difficulties Encountered in Making a Diagnosis of Paresis," *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, December 1910, XXXVII, 754-764; "Prognosis and Therapy of Cerebral Syphilis," *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1913, LX, 1852-1855 (read before the Society for Nervous and Mental Diseases of Washington, D. C. at a Symposium on Syphilis of the Central Nervous System held March 20, 1913).

ALFRED GLASCOCK, M. D.