

## Obituary

MR. C. F. BEADLES

CECIL FOWLER BEADLES, pathological curator of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, whose death at the age of sixty-six years occurred on January 3, received his medical education at University College and Hospital, London, where he gained honours in histology. In 1890 he obtained his diploma and afterwards passed two years as senior house surgeon at the Cancer Hospital; there he was enabled to perfect himself in microscopical technique and pursue the study of pathological anatomy, the branch of medical science towards which his natural inclination turned.

Mr. Beadles's subsequent career falls into three periods defined by the posts which he successively occupied, namely, those of assistant medical officer at the London County Asylum, Colney Hatch, assistant to Prof. Shattock, then curator of the Hunterian Museum, and finally pathological curator of the Museum. While at the London County Asylum, he was constantly engaged in scientific studies relating both to mental disease and to pathological anatomy generally. Most of his published works at this time were contributed to the *Transactions of the Pathological Society*, which contain no less than forty-five papers from his pen. He communicated a few papers to the Medico-Psychological Association, of which he was a member and from which he received a prize and bronze medal in 1894 for a dissertation on degenerative lesions of the arterial system in the insane. He interested himself particularly in the vascular supply of the brain, the anatomical variations and anomalies of which he considered might have a bearing on mental disease and on the clinical signs of such conditions as embolism.

The results of Mr. Beadles's researches in this direction were embodied in the Hunterian lecture which he delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1907-8. He contemplated writing a book on the subject which should include the literature, and he collected a great number of extracts from British and foreign sources for this purpose. However, the War intervened and his subsequent ill-health prevented him from resuming the work.

In 1909 Mr. Beadles became assistant to Prof. Shattock, who was then engaged on the revision of the pathological catalogue of the Hunterian Museum, and he continued to be connected with the Museum up to the time of his death, a period of more than twenty years. At the outbreak of the War he was appointed, under Government, to deal with the pathological war material which was accumulated at the Royal College of Surgeons. This was an arduous undertaking involving the examination, preparation, and dissection of a vast number of specimens, their selection to form a fully illustrative series of the injuries and diseases incidental to warfare, their mounting and suitable

display. The collection thus formed now constitutes a separate and important section of the Hunterian Museum, consisting of about three thousand specimens; and it will remain as a standing memorial to the honour of Mr. Beadles.

The final period of Mr. Beadles's career, that of the curatorship, is mainly one of steadily declining health. When he succeeded to Prof. Shattock in 1925 he was already afflicted with bronchial and pulmonary trouble. The commencement of this he considered to have dated from the time of his work on the war material, and it is quite possible that the inhalation of the vapour of formalin to which he was constantly exposed at that time was responsible for his illness, although his ill-health was aggravated by other complications. His untiring energy and devotion to museum work, however, did not desert him even to the end, although the work became an obvious burden.

Mr. Beadles was a pure pathological anatomist of a type now gradually disappearing amid the experimental tendencies of the time. He was entirely absorbed in his subject, beyond which he had but few interests, and he lived a life of absolute seclusion. The well-merited honour of the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons was conferred upon him shortly after his promotion to the curatorship.

PROF. R. DONALDSON

PROF. ROBERT DONALDSON was a man of very great culture. Before commencing his medical studies, he took an arts course in the University of Edinburgh and graduated M.A. in 1899. In 1904 he obtained his M.B., Ch.B., and the same year received the diploma in tropical medicine. He gained his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1908, the diploma of public health in 1912, and his M.D. degree with honours in 1918.

Donaldson commenced his pathological career as assistant with me in the University of Sheffield. From there he went as assistant to Prof. Walker Hall in the University of Bristol. Later he was appointed pathologist to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, where, during the War, he was specialist officer in charge of the laboratory. From Reading he went to St. George's Hospital as lecturer in pathology and in forensic medicine, and in 1928 he was appointed to the Sir William Dunn chair of pathology tenable at Guy's Hospital.

Dr. Donaldson took a very active part in research work, and his knowledge of modern languages was a great help to him. The mass of routine work which falls to the lot of a lecturer and professor in departments which are inadequately staffed—and this seemed always to be Donaldson's lot—limited his output of published work; but his knowledge of the subject which he taught—and he was a great teacher—is evidenced in his excel-