PROFESSOR MILLAIS CULPIN

Professor Millais Culpin died on September 14, 1952, at the age of 78.

He entered the field of industrial medicine rather by accident than by design. He was the son of a doctor in general practice in Stoke Newington, and was educated at the Grocers’ Company School where, in addition to scholastic success, he acquired a life-long interest in entomology. For health reasons his father gave up his practice in London to set up in Brisbane. Millais tried his hand at various ways of earning a living, including an ineffective attempt at gold-mining, and eventually settled as a teacher in Cape York Peninsula for four happy years. He returned to London and qualified in 1902; he then went back to Australia, afterwards setting up in practice in Shanghai.

He married, and in 1913 returned to England in the hope of having a practice in the south of England, but the 1914–18 war broke out and instead he served in France in the R.A.M.C. His experiences as a surgeon turned his attention to the problem of psychoneurosis, and as soon as possible he returned to England to study “shell-shock”. He was appointed lecturer on psychoneurosis at the London Hospital and settled down as a psychotherapist.

When two investigators of the Industrial Health Research Board produced experimental evidence that telegraphists’ cramp was not primarily an organic muscular disease Dr. Culpin was appointed to study the condition and was able to show that it conformed to the group of disabilities known as psychoneuroses. This brought him into the field of industrial medicine and his appointment as professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine gave him further opportunities. After the investigation into cramp he studied the problem of miners’ nystagmus, the loss of time in industry due to preventable sickness, the incidence of psychoneurotic disabilities, and the environmental conditions associated with their development.

He retired from research work in 1939 but continued some clinical work until his death. May Smith.

THE OCTOBER (1952) ISSUE

The October (1952) issue contains the following papers:—

Blood Changes in Industrial Disease. By Ronald E. Lane.

The Carcinogenic Action of 4-Aminodiphenyl and 3 : 2'-Dimethyl-4-Aminodiphenyl. By A. L. Walpole, M. H. C. Williams, and D. C. Roberts.

Sickness Absence Recording in Industry. By J. P. W. Hughes.


The Role of Staphylococcal Infection in Beat Disorders of Miners. By J. B. Atkins and J. Marks.


II. Determination of Types of Viable Bacteria. By Mary Hamlin.

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, price 12s. 6d.