

DEATH OF DR.DAVEY.

“Dr DAVEY passed suddenly and quietly away last evening” was the wording of the bulletin affixed to the door of the late doctor’s residence on the morning of Tuesday last. The news of this event caused quite a shock in the town, and, no doubt, will be received throughout the Island with feelings of regret, for the doctor’s connection with the County Hospital, and especially the Children’s Wing of the institution made his name as familiar to the inhabitants as “a household word.”

And it may be truly said “the doctor died in harness, for in the afternoon, preceding the evening of his death, he had driven to Newport to attend a meeting of the committee of that part of the hospital, the Children’s Wing, in which he took so keen an interest. On his return, feeling somewhat fatigued, he retired to his room to seek a temporary rest, but it was otherwise to be, and he passed from the temporary to the eternal unexpectedly, quietly and painlessly.

During his life in Ryde Dr DAVEY lived an eminently useful and striking career. Very few charitable objects in the neighbourhood missed his attention and support, and his advice has been most useful in connection with them. In his public career he showed sterling merit in the manner in which he dealt with the business that came before him. For several years he was a valued worker on the County Council, being accorded the honour of election as County Alderman. He was made a Borough Magistrate some years back, and has been very regular in his attendance to the business of the Court. As chairman of the Ryde Pier Company Dr DAVEY’s position in regard to the town was sometimes a difficult one; as the interests of the company and the corporation were often conflicting ones. Dr DAVEY’s chief work, however, has been in connection with the philanthropic institutions of the Borough, and more particularly the Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital to which we have already alluded. For many years Dr DAVEY worked very hard in connection with this institution, and was greatly instrumental in causing the erection of the Children’s Ward. He was also a prime mover in the Ryde District Nursing for the Sick Poor, a society which does much good work, although little heard of. To the medical profession in Ryde Dr DAVEY was a valued helper and friend.

Dr DAVEY was one of the oldest practitioners in Ryde. Settling in the town some forty years ago he was first in partnership with Mr BARROW, after which he commenced practice on his own account, attaining a success which only terminated with his life. Of late years he has divided his medical work with his son-in-law Dr BANKS who became his partner a few years since.

At the meeting at the Ryde School Board on Tuesday the Chairman (the vicar of Ryde), said he should like to make some reference to the sad event which had shocked them all that morning, the death of Dr DAVEY. Everyone should allow that his loss would be felt deeply by the town and neighbourhood. For many years he had been connected with Ryde, not only as a professional man, but as assisting in the promotion of everybody conducive to its welfare and progress. There are many public bodies to which he had been attached. and on such bodies he always seemed to bring life and power. They might say of him more particularly that he was truly a philanthropist. Any Institution that ministered in any way to the alleviation of distress at once appealed to his kind and sympathetic heart. They could particularly mention The I.W.Infirmary which had had his care and attention more particularly during the last few years. He had been instrumental in causing the erection of the Children’s Ward, to which an endowment fund had been raised principally owing to his energy and influence. Only on Monday, apparently in full vigour and strength, he with the rest of the committee balanced the whole of the accounts in connection with the Children’s Ward, it seemed that his latest work having been duly finished, he was called to his rest. The speaker also mentioned Dr. DAVEY’s connection with the Ryde District Nursing for the Sick Poor, the initiation of which was due to him, and in which he always took the greatest possible interest. He proposed that this Board desire to record their sincere regret at the loss the town and neighbourhood had sustained at the sudden death of Dr. DAVEY, and at the same time, to express to his family their heartfelt sympathy with them in their sorrow.

Mr MEARS seconded, and echoed the sentiments of the Chairman as to the highly sterling qualities possessed by Dr. Davey, and the ability he brought to bear on all public work he was connected with. Dr DAVEY’s death was a severe loss, and would cause them to appreciate more highly the work he did while he was alive.

Dr MACKENZIE, as a member of the profession supported, and said whatever he undertook was done in an energetic manner. The resolution was carried, the members of the Board standing.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday November 10th 1900



DEATH OF DR. A. G. DAVEY.

It is with very sincere sorrow that we record the death of Dr. Alexander G. DAVEY, which occurred, with a suddenness which has created a profound impression in Ryde, on Monday evening. He went down to the pier on the morning of that day, and seemed then, to those who came in contact with him, to be in his usual health. Later in the day he proceeded to Newport, and attended a meeting, ---at which the Deputy-Governor of the Island (Mr T. B. H. COCHRANE) presided ---of the central committee formed for erecting an Island memorial of the Queen's Long Reign. He there presented and explained accounts involving the expenditure of nearly £10,000 in connection with the Children's Wing of the I.W County Hospital ---the largest sum probably ever raised in the Island at one time for any charitable institution. It is the proof of the care and accuracy with which Dr. DAVEY carried out everything that he took in hand, that these accounts, when presented to audit, balanced to a penny. The proceedings at the committee lasted some time, and we understand that everything connected with the commemoration fund was then settled and finished up. Dr. DAVEY returned home about five o'clock, and it is probable he had overtaxed his strength. He complained of pain, and of not feeling well, and he said he would go and lie down. He went up to his bed room, and Mrs DAVEY left him to take the rest which she thought he needed. She looked into the room, we are informed once or twice afterwards, but thinking her husband was asleep, she did not disturb him. Later in the evening, Dr. BANKS (who had been sent for) came, and on going to Dr. DAVEY found that he had quietly passed away to long rest sometime previously. There is something impressive in an ending such as this. Dr. DAVEY had initiated and, to a large extent helped to carry out, the new Children's Hospital, and there is something peculiarly solemn in his being called away at the completion of what may be regarded as the crowning work of his life.

Dr.DAVEY came to Ryde in the year 1862 as a partner of Dr. Barrow. The connection did not last long, and Dr.DAVEY soon started in practice for himself. His medical skill, care and kindness were undeniable, and no medical man in Ryde has ever enjoyed to a larger extent the confidence and appreciation of his patients. He was not the man, however to confine his work to his patients, but took a deep interest in everything which could benefit those around him. He will be greatly missed at the County Hospital, to which he had given devoted service on the medical staff for nearly 40years, but in addition to this, he took the keenest interest in the management of the Institution, and many improvements and alterations there owe their inception and their successful realisation to his energy and ability. The Hospital was ever in his thoughts, and we doubt if any one has been the means of bringing such a large sum to the funds of the charity as Dr. DAVEY has done. To Dr. DAVEY also we largely owe the introduction of the District Nursing for the Sick Poor into the town, and he has also worked for that useful charity with characteristic ardour and devotion, and was largely instrumental in placing it on its present firm foundation. We also owe to Dr. DAVEY the introduction of the Oxford Extension Lectures, and he was for some years the President of the Association which arranged them. His crowning work, however, was undoubtedly the carrying to the successful conclusion The New Children's Hospital. He worked with this object with devotion and an assiduity which did him the utmost honour. He was elected hon, treasurer of the fund, and we doubt if anyone else obtained anything like the amount of money he did for the memorial. His devotion to the Children's Ward was recognised in a very pleasing style in 1898. It was decided to collect £1000 to endow a cot in the Children's Hospital to be named "The Alexander DAVEY Cot." Within a very short time 249 friends and admirers of Dr. DAVEY subscribed the required sum for the endowment of the cot, which bears the inscription, "This cot was named and endowed in perpetuity by friends of Alexander DAVEY, M.D., in recognition of his professional skill, and of the devotion and sympathy with which he has ever sought to alleviate pain and sickness." The presentation of the cheque for £1000 was made to Dr.DAVEY in July, 1898, and at the

same time, he was presented with a magnificent album containing the names of the subscribers, a description of the new Wing, and sketches and photographs of the same. The presentation of the splendid gifts ---unique testimonies of Dr. DAVEY'S abilities and the respect and regard entertained for him --- took place at a drawing room meeting at the Castle, by Colonel CRADOCK.

But Dr.DAVEY also took a great interest in various branches of public business. He was made a borough magistrate some years ago, and attended his duties with his usual regularity and assiduity. He was also for some time a member of The Isle of Wight County Council, and there did good work, but his numerous engagements prevented him retaining a position often involving a prolonged absence from the town. He joined the directorate of the Ryde Pier Company some years ago and was elected the chairman. Under his regime the Company has flourished greatly, and many improvements have been effected --- including the erection of a pavilion, the re-laying of the electric railway, etc. He initiated and carried out the idea of weekly concerts in the pavilion all the year round. In fact he did a great deal to infuse energetic and business methods into the management of Ryde Pier. He was also the originator of the Steam Laundry Company, which is now in successful operation in the town; and has been for many years one of the governors of the I.W. College.

PUBLIC MARKS OF RESPECT.

At the usual meeting of the committee of the I.W.County Hospital on Wednesday morning.

The Chairman (Rev.W.H. Earle WELBY) said they met there with a great sense of grief at a loss which he felt sure they all felt personally. They all knew the devotion and energy with which Dr. DAVEY had occupied himself in the interests of the Hospital, and he need hardly say how much they would miss his kindly face, friendly talk and wise counsel. Personally he could hardly express how much he would miss such a fellow worker in the work which they had to carry on.

Dr. BUCK, on behalf of the medical staff, also bore testimony to the valuable services which Dr. DAVEY had rendered to the Hospital.

The Chairman moved the following resolution "This committee desire to place on record their sense of the loss sustained by the death of Dr. DAVEY, the senior medical officer, who for so many years and so successfully has devoted himself in every way to the interests of the Hospital. They desire also to convey to Mrs DAVEY and the other members of his family their great sympathy with them in the sorrow which has fallen so heavily upon them."

Mr M. W. HUNTER, J.P., seconded and this was carried unanimously, in silence. The other business was adjourned.

At the meeting of the Ryde School Board on Tuesday morning.

The Vicar said ---Before we proceed with the business, I should like to make some reference to the sad event which I am sure has shocked us all ---the death of Dr.DAVEY. I think everyone will admit that his loss will be felt very deeply by the town and neighbourhood. He had been for many years connected with Ryde as a professional man, and he assisted in the promotion of every object conducive to it's welfare and progress. I have often met Dr. DAVEY on the many public bodies to which he was attached, and to which he always seemed to bring life and power. He was one who, in every sense of the word, was a useful member of the community. I think we may truly say of him that he was a philanthropist. Anything which would alleviate distress at once appealed to Dr. DAVEY's kind and sympathetic heart. Amongst the many agencies of good with which he was associated I must more particularly mention the Royal I.W County Hospital, which has had his special interest and care during the last few years since the addition of the Children's Ward, for which I think everyone knows he has been the means of obtaining many endowments by his energy and influence. Only on Monday last, apparently in the full vigour of health, he, with the rest of the committee, balanced up the whole of the accounts of The Children's Ward, and it really seems as if, his latest work being well and duly finished, he was to be called to his rest. I must mention an institution that Dr. DAVEY has taken the keenest interest in ---the Ryde District Nursing. I think I am right in saying the initiation of that is due to Dr. DAVEY and, as one of the committee, I can testify to the interest Dr. DAVEY took in it, and to the fact that he was always at his post. I feel sure I am only speaking the sentiments of you all when I say there

has fallen on us to-day a very sad calamity. I move "That the members of this Board desire to record their sincere regret at the loss the town and neighbourhood have sustained in the sudden death of Dr.DAVEY, and at the same time to express to his family their heartfelt sympathy with them in their sorrow."

Mr. MEARS, (vice chairman of the Board) seconded, and corroborated all that the chairman had said, and also bore testimony to the ability of Dr. DAVEY. His work would live after him.

Mr. MACKENZIE, as one of the profession to which Dr. DAVEY belonged, also endorsed all the chairman had said, Those in the medical profession had lost one who was always ready to give help and assistance to any one of them in any difficulty. Having known Dr. DAVEY for the past fifteen years, during part of which time he was house surgeon at the Royal I.W. Infirmary, he could thoroughly endorse all that the chairman had said about the way Dr. DAVEY had worked for the Infirmary, and the Children's Ward.

The vote of condolence was carried in silence, all standing.

The R.M.A. Band did not give their usual concert on Thursday evening out of respect for Dr. DAVEY.

The concert in aid of the Ryde District Nursing, has also been postponed.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place this Friday morning amidst extraordinary demonstrations of respect. The coffin (which was of plain oak with brass mountings) was first taken to St. Thomas's Church. On it was laid a simple cross, of violets interspersed with bay leaves and evergreens. The mourners were Mr. A.R. DAVEY, Lieut. C. F. DAVEY, Mr. G. L. DAVEY (sons) Dr. BANKS and Mr. HORDERN (sons-in-law), and Mr. T. B. COCHRANE (Deputy Governor) who represented H.R.H. PRINCESS HENRY of Battenburgh. A very large congregation had assembled in the church, and included Lady ADELA COCHRANE, Miss COCHRANE, Lady DALY, Mr. A. and Miss TATTNALL, Mr. W. G. BRIGSTOCKE, Mr. W. P. BRIGSTOCKE, Col. HOWARD BROOK, Rev. W. H. E. WELBY, (chairman County Hospital), Mr. E. CARTER, J.P., Col. CRADOCK, J.P., Mr. W. E. RATCLIFFE, Mr. E. R. RATCLIFFE, Mr. W. H. RIDDETT, J.P., Major and Mrs. E. CROFT MURRAY, Rev. Clement SMITH, Mrs. FEATHERSTONHAUGH, Rev. E. SUMMERS, Col. CLAYTON, Mr. CORRIE, Mr. F. NEWMAN (County Surveyor), Captain BYNG, RN., Colonel HEWETT, Mr. ROBEY, F. ELDRIDGE (Newport), Mr. WINDELER (Secretary R.V.Y.C.),

Mr Percy THELLUSSON, Rev. H. EWBANK, Lieut. TIPPING, RN., Mr. H. H. POLLARD, J.P., C.A., Mr. W. Gerard SMITH, (representing the I.W.College), Mr. JORDAN (Newport), Mr and Mrs Evelyn RICH, Mr. WADHAM, Mr. PANNEL, Mr. G. SHEDDEN J.P., Miss E. PILKINGTON, Capt. and Mrs. DAUBUZ, Dr. I. MACKENZIE, Dr. PRESTON, Mr. Thomas DASHWOOD, J.P., Mr. G. E. MCLEOD, Dr. A. BUCK, Dr. WHITEHEAD, and Major SAUNDERS, of Ventnor, Mr. H.G. NUTT, Mr. BREBNER, Mr. CONACHER, (Manager I.W. Central Railway), The corporation of Ryde was represented by Mr. C. G. VINCENT (Town Clerk), Mr. MATHOW (Borough surveyor), Alderman GROVES, J.P., E. MARVIN, J.P., FOWLER, COOMBES, Councillors WATTS, THIRKELL, STROUD, MEARS, HOOPER, TEAGUE, LOCKE, J. HANSFORD and MILLWARD. The Pier Company was represented by Mr. W. GIBBS, Mr. J. O. BROOK and Mr. BARNES (Directors), Capt. STANNEY (Manager), Mr. TAYLOR (Secretary), the Pier Company staff by Mr. BIGGS and others. Amongst others present were Mr. G. FARDELL (representing the Clerk to the County and Borough Magistrates) Mr. WADE, Mr. H. JACOBS, Mr. W. JACOBS, Mr. J. LOWE, Mr. BARFORD, Mr. LEAL (representing the Lifeboat Committee), Mr. R. COLENUTT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. J. EVANS, Mr. TUTTE, Mr. DURRANT, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. J. DOWN, Mrs. PURNELL, Mr. S. ATTWOOD (representing Messrs FARDELL) Mr. W. H. DANN (joint hon. sec. Oxford Local Examination Committee), Mr. J. C. HARTNALL, &c.

Col. CRADOCK and Mr T.F. PERROTT (vice-chairman) and Mr MCLEOD (hon. Treasurer) and the Nurses represented the Ryde Nursing Institute. Capt. GARTSIDE TIPPING, R.N. and Mr P.THELLUSSON and Miss K. MILLS and 28 employees represented the Ryde Steam Laundry.

The opening portions of the burial service were read by Rev W. M. CAMERON (vicar of Holy Trinity). The prayers were offered by the Rev C. RHODES HALL (curate- in -charge of St.Thomas's). The hymn was "Rock of Ages cleft for me." Mr W. TEAGUE presided at the organ. The coffin was then carried back to the hearse and conveyed to the Cemetery. No less than 24 carriages joined in the procession, One of them being completely filled with wreaths and floral tributes.

At the Cemetery, the final ceremony was performed by the Rev C. R. HALL, assisted by the Rev W. M. CAMERON. The coffin was placed in a vault, next to Capt. George BRIGSTOCKE at the southern end of the Cemetery. Amongst those present, in addition to those mentioned, were the vicar of Ryde (Rev J. SHEARME), Capt. JELICOE, Mr J. ELLERY, Dr A. WOODWARD, Mr A. WOODWARD, jun., Mr W. SMITH and a number of nurses of the County Hospital. The coffin was of plain oak, with brass fittings, and bore the inscription: "Alexander George DAVEY, J.P., died November 5th, 1900."

Amongst the wreaths was a splendid one from the committee of the Royal I.W. County Hospital, inscribed, "From the members of the committee of the Royal I.W. County Hospital. To the memory of an honoured friend and colleague." Other beautiful floral memorials were sent by Dr, Ernest DAVEY, Mrs AUSTIN and Mrs MORTIMER, Mrs Theodore WOODS, Miss Le MARCHANT, Mrs G. C. H .P. BRIGSTOCKE, Miss C. M BRIGSTOCKE, Colonel and Mrs CRADOCK, General and Mrs CALTHORPE, General and Mrs FEATHERSTONHAUGH, The matron and assistant Matron Royal County Hospital, the Nursing Staff Royal County Hospital, the Committee and Superintendent, Ryde District Nursing. Miss MILLS and the employees of the Vectis Steam Laundry. Masters and Boys I.W.College, Directors Ryde Pier Company, Employees Ryde Pier Company, the Flag officers and members Royal Victoria Yacht Club, the District Nurses, members Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Clubs, Dottie SEARLE, Mrs A. H. TATTNELL and the Misses TATTNELL Mrs GARDINER Heathfield Waybridge, Miss CRAMER, Secretary Ryde Pier Company, Mr and Mrs PERROTT. Little Nancy, Captain and Mrs STANNEY, Miss BURNSIDE, Miss MAXWELL, Mrs Colonel BRIDGE, Mrs and Miss BRETT, Miss F. SEAWELL, Lynchmere Herts, Mrs ROGERS, Mrs and Miss MCLEAN, Mr and Mrs BLAKE, General and Mrs CARR TATE, Miss CORRIE, Lady DALY, Mr and Mrs Edward CARTER, Mr and Mrs GIBBS, Rev H. ROBINSON, Mrs Thomas LOWE, Mr and Mrs Mark HUNTER, Miss and Master HUNTER, Mr and Mrs HANCOCK and Miss CAMPBELL, Mrs Alex POOLE, Lady and Misses COCHRANE, Miss WINTHORP and Miss PYEMONT, Rev and Mrs and Miss WADE, Miss DUFF, Rev and Mrs BEVAN, Mrs and Misses PILLCHARD, Mrs JEFFERY, Miss DENNETT and Miss WHITE, Mr and Mrs BEVIS, Mrs Archibald CARTER, E. and J. HAMILTON, Kate, Bessie and Clarice ERL, Major and Mrs CROFT MURRAY, Mr and Mrs RATCLIFFE, Mrs BOGER, Mrs PERCKER, Mrs H. E. WATTS, Mary and Maud DALY, Miss BURGESS.

Amongst those who sent carriages were: Miss BRIGSTOCKE, Miss Le MARCHANT, Mr PERROTT, Lady DALY, Lady COCHRANE, Mr E. R. CORRIE, Mrs B. BRIGSTOCKE, Mr HUNTER, Professor SIMONDS, Dr RICH, Dr MACKENZIE, Dr WADHAM, Lieut GARTSIDE TIPPING, Mr E. CARTER, J.P., Mrs CARTER (Upton), the Pier Directors etc.

Researched and typed by:

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