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Daniel Hack Tuke (1817–1895)

Daniel Hack Tuke was one of the best known Victorian psychiatrists. He was a strong supporter of the Association and wrote an account of its first 40 years. He was an editor of the Journal, President and the author of two of the major textbooks of psychiatry in the second half of the nineteenth century. His own books, presented by his widow after his death, were the start of the Association's library.

Daniel Hack Tuke was a Quaker and the great-grandson of the founder of the Retreat. He was the youngest child of 13 of Samuel Tuke, a Quaker philanthropist and asylum reformer. He was a delicate child. He was educated at Quaker schools. When he left school his father did not think him strong enough for business, but thought the law might be suitable as he was studious and fond of debate. He was therefore articled to a Bradford solicitor. When his health began to suffer from the drudgery of copying papers he abandoned this on the advice of a physician. When his health improved he applied for a post at the Asylum where he was taken on as Steward. The following year he attended lectures on chemistry and botany and began to frequent the York Hospital. In 1850 he moved to London to continue to study medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital taking the Diploma M.R.C.S. in 1852. The following year he became M.D. of Heidelberg. He had married that year and then made a continental tour with his wife, visiting asylums in Holland, Austria and France and published an account of them in Dr Forbes Winslow's *Psychological Journal*. He returned to York, becoming assistant physician to the Retreat and physician to the York Dispensary where he introduced a new course of psychological medicine at York Medical School. A pulmonary haemorrhage confirmed tuberculosis so he moved to the milder climate of Falmouth for 15 years. While at York he had made detailed patients' histories and case notes.

With Dr John Bucknill he agreed to write the well-known *Manual of Psychological Medicine* which was published in 1878 and was for many years the standard English authority on insanity. He and Dr Bucknill agreed to work separately and Dr Hack Tuke wrote the first half dealing with Lunacy Law, classification, causation and the different forms of insanity. Bucknill wrote on diagnosis, pathology and treatment. By 1875 Tuke's health had improved sufficiently for him to move to London to become a consultant and a lecturer at Charing Cross Hospital. He also became a governor of the Bethlem Hospital and was a founder of the Aftercare Association. In 1880 he became a joint editor of the *Journal of Mental Science* and in 1881 President of the Medico-Psychological Association.

He wrote his book *Insanity in Ancient and Modern Life* (1878) followed by *History of the Insane in the British Isles* (1882). In 1884 he visited America where he found material for his book *The Insane in the United States and Canada*. In 1888 he received an honorary LL.D from Glasgow University as one of the very few holders of this degree who had had no university training. He finally undertook to edit the *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine*. This was the most ambitious British psychiatric work of the nineteenth century. It was written by an international group of 128 authors in two volumes. His book, which aimed to be comprehensive, reflected many of the complex social, cognitive and professional dimensions of psychiatry at the end of the 19th century. He himself wrote 68 original sections and despite having to arrange and edit to prevent overlapping completed this in two years, presenting the first copy in 1892 at The Retreat to the President, Dr Baker (superintendent at the Retreat). He died in 1895.

Dr Tuke's widow presented many of his books, including all his own published works, to the M.P.A. These formed the nucleus of what was to become the Association's library, and later the College's Library and Information Service. Apart from the volumes of his own writings, it is interesting that the majority of the volumes had been presented to Tuke by their authors, many of whom, judging by their dedicated presentation copies, held him in high esteem. This is particularly noticeable among the continental works which were well represented. Regis, for example, dedicated his gift of *Manuel pratique de médecine mentale* (1885) to Tuke with the words 'A M.le Dr Tuke hommage de respect et de vive sympathie – Dr E. Regis'. Charcot wrote in his *Exposé des titres scientifiques* (1883), 'Dr H. Tuke, avec mes meilleurs souvenirs – Charcot' and Marie, in his *Étude sur quelques symptômes de délires systématisés et sur leur valeur* (1892), 'A Monsieur le Docteur Hack Tuke hommage très respectueux, et rémoignage de profonde sympathie de son très reconnaissant et dévoué – Dr A. Marie'. The Association was the fortunate recipient of a magnificent commemorative album which had been presented to Tuke on completion of the dictionary. It held photographic portraits and signatures of the contributors to the dictionary and is inscribed 'Physician and Friend – This Album, containing the Photographs of the Contributors to the Dictionary of Psychological Medicine has been presented as a Souvenir of the Completion of the Work and in recognition of his Labours well-bestowed'.

References

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