

ERIC SLACK, O.B.E., M.B., B.CH.

With regret word has been received of the death on August 12, 1933, of Dr. Eric Slack, medical officer of the Botsabelo Leper Asylum, Maseru, Basutoland (South Africa), and one of the earliest members of the International Leprosy Association.

Dr. Slack went to West Africa in 1908, shortly after qualification, according to a notice in the British Medical Journal, and spent considerable time there in the sleeping sickness work. During the

war he served in the German East Africa campaign. Some time later he went to the leper asylum in Basutoland. Here he served for eleven years, devoting himself wholeheartedly to the work, respected and beloved by the patients with whom he dealt.

His deep interest in the disease led him to visit the leprosy centers in India and at Honolulu, and in preparation for intended research he did some work in serology in Vienna. A visitor to the Botsabelo asylum could not fail to be impressed by the earnestness with which he undertook to carry on laboratory research, under a handicap of limited facilities and a heavy clinical routine that would have discouraged most men. A crippling illness overtook him, and as a hopeless and helpless cripple he went on leave to Switzerland, which he had loved as a mountaineer. Though he was probably not widely known among leprologists, those who did know him will regret the passing of a kindly and earnest worker.