a Wassermann test at the disposal of any practitioner or institution for a fee of 2s. 6d. The results of the experience gained in this way during nine months are given by Dr. Chalmers. Of the total number (751) examined 283 were positive and 468 negative.  S. S.

OBITUARY

The death of Edgar A. Browne, which occurred on June 27, at the age of 75 years, has already been announced in these columns.

The eldest son of Hablot K. Browne ("Phiz"), who illustrated many of Dickens's earlier works, the subject of our notice was born in London. He received his earlier education at Bruce Castle School, and studied medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital. In 1864 he took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.M. and of L.S.A. in 1865,
and established himself in general practice in Liverpool. Before long he was appointed surgeon to St. George’s Hospital for Skin Diseases, and assistant surgeon to the Eye and Ear Infirmary, then situated in Mount Pleasant. When the new Eye and Ear Infirmary was built, Mr. Browne devoted his attention exclusively to eye work. In 1884 he succeeded Mr. Shadford Walker as lecturer in ophthalmology in the University of Liverpool, a post he resigned only a few months before his death. In 1907 he received from the University the degree of M.Ch. (Honoris causa). He was president of the Section of Ophthalmology when the annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held at Liverpool in 1912. Mr. Browne was the author of “How to Use the Ophthalmoscope,” and (jointly) of a “Manual of School Hygiene.” Most of his articles on eye subjects appeared in the Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society or in the pages of the Ophthalmic Review or the Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal. In the spring of 1916 he completed a membership of 50 years of the Liverpool Medical Institution, on which occasion a gratulatory resolution was adopted by the members of that famous medical body. It should be added that he was president of the Institution in 1900-2.

Edgar Browne was in many respects a remarkable man. Aside from the distinction he achieved in his work, he was richly endowed with ready wit, and was one of the most humorous public speakers we have ever had the pleasure of hearing. His artistic powers were of no mean order, and were put to good use in his lectures and demonstrations. Few had his power of rendering a dry subject attractive to his listeners. His bonhomie delighted all who came into contact with him.

Mr. Browne was twice married, and is survived by his widow, to whom we offer our sincere sympathies. He leaves three sons, of whom one, Dr. Hablot J. M. Browne, is a member of the medical profession.

The appreciation that follows is from the pen of his partner, Mr. Edgar Stevenson:

Very few members of the medical profession can have attained the popularity and affection inspired by Edgar Athelstane Browne in every one who knew him. His patients regarded him as much more than a professional adviser, and his name for very many years was almost a household word throughout the north-western counties. Nor was this surprising to anyone who knew him. His personal charm, his wit and conversational powers, and his artistic tastes, combined with his professional talents in the making of a very remarkable personality.

He retired from practice in 1915, being at the time consulting surgeon to the Liverpool Eye and Ear Infirmary, lecturer in
ophthalmology in the Liverpool University, and, until the early spring of 1915, ophthalmic surgeon to the 1st Western General Hospital, with the rank of Major, R.A.M.C., T.

His real life-work was connected with the Eye and Ear Infirmary, the staff of which he joined as assistant surgeon in 1866, becoming surgeon in 1874; and for the best part of 20 years it is no disparagement to his colleagues, all of them well-known and able men, to assert that, in the estimation of the public, Edgar Browne was the Eye and Ear Infirmary. He was it, and his out-patients proved it by refusing, often to our great annoyance, the ministrations of the junior staff, and being content to wait, sometimes for hours, until he appeared. Many of these out-patients were old chronic cases who attended in a pathetic group week by week, not for the sake of the boric lotion they steadfastly and hopefully used, but to be cheered and sent away smiling by the few kindly words and gentle chaff each one knew he would be certain to receive.

He was a brilliant operator, and retained his steadiness of hand right up to the time of his retirement from practice, and he had many stories to tell of the days before the introduction of cocaine; one of his proudest achievements being the extraction of a dislocated cataractous lens under ether, with patient lying prone with face projecting over the edge of the table, Browne himself sitting on the floor, with a constant stream of saliva from the patient over his face and down his neck.

In the days of his active work at the Eye and Ear Infirmary, ear surgery had not grown to its present dimensions, and Edgar Browne cared little about it, although he always claimed that, if put to it, he could syringe an ear as well as any man. This indeed was about the extent of his ear practice.

During his tenure of office as surgeon, the hospital was removed to a new building, in the construction of which he took the greatest interest, and was instrumental in raising large sums of money for the building fund, partly by direct appeal to the business men of Liverpool, in company with the Treasurer—often, apparently, a very humorous proceeding; and partly by means of a most successful series of theatrical performances, for which he wrote the plays, and acted as stage manager.

For many years he gave post-graduate lectures in ophthalmology at the hospital, in addition to his regular lectures at the School of Medicine. These lectures were attended by medical men from all parts of the district, and were most popular, as well they might be, for his powers of exposition of any subject were quite remarkable.

The great disappointment of his professional career was his enforced retirement from the active staff of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, at the age of 55, when he was still very actively engaged in practice, and he felt the blow still more when shortly after his
retirement the rules were altered, and an age limit of 60 substituted for the time limit of 20 years' service. He looked upon this as adding insult to injury, and for many years could not refer to the subject without intense indignation. Perfection is unattainable by mortal man, and if Edgar Browne had a weak point, it lay in the fact that he was emphatically not a good business man from the professional point of view, as the following instance will show. In the early days of our partnership, I went away for a holiday, just after we had done a very successful cataract extraction on a private patient. On my return I found that he had left the nursing home, and had been charged the not excessive fee of two guineas for the operation, the explanation being that he did not look particularly well off! The matron of the nursing home reported the patient as being very much astonished, and as having his pockets stuffed full of £5 notes. We never saw him again.

With this exception, my twelve years' partnership with Mr. Edgar Browne was a period of unalloyed joy, coupled with hard work, and with never a single word or deed to tarnish the memory of a friendship I shall value to the end of my life.

Incidentally, nothing would have amused him more than my attempt to write an appreciation. He had a well-deserved contempt for my literary abilities, which suffered very much in comparison with his own.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENT

1917.