

Surgeon Rear-Admiral Eric Lush Pearce Gould.

*[A Memorial Address delivered at the meeting of
the Council of the Baptist Union in the Shakespeare
Room, Baptist Church House, on Tuesday, Novem-
ber 19th, 1940.]*

SURGEON Rear-Admiral Eric Lush Pearce Gould, who died at Devonport on Thursday, August 1st, at the age of 54, was a son of Sir Alfred and Lady Pearce Gould. On both sides he was descended from Baptist ancestors and, speaking in such an assembly as this, it is fitting that I should say one or two words about them. Sir Alfred was for many years a deacon at Regent's Park Chapel, and served as treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society. The father of Sir Alfred was the Rev. George Gould, of St. Mary's, Norwich, one of the most distinguished Baptist ministers of his day. Lady Pearce Gould was the grand-daughter of a Baptist minister, the Rev. Christopher Woollacott and, following the example of her mother, Lady Lush, was an officer for many years of the Baptist Zenana Mission. She then held office in the Women's Missionary Association, and became the first woman chairman of the General Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society. She was the youngest daughter of Lord Justice Lush, a great judge, who was a member of Regent's Park Chapel in the days of Dr. Landels.

Sir Alfred and Lady Pearce Gould had two sons; Eric whose memory we celebrate to-day, and his equally remarkable brother Leslie, a young man of singular charm and loftiness of character. They joined the Navy as young doctors in August, 1914. Leslie, the younger of the two, was with the Naval Division in France in March, 1918, and was killed near Amiens. Eric lived to serve in the present war. He was appointed Surgeon Rear-Admiral in September, 1939, and posted to the Royal Naval Hospital at Devonport, where he died. He was laid to rest there above the harbour, and almost within sound of the sea.

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!

Both brothers were baptized by the Rev. E. G. Gange, and became members of Regent's Park Chapel. Eric was afterwards

a member of Heath Street Baptist Church. They were both educated at Charterhouse and at Christ Church, Oxford, and showed that a Nonconformist may take all that Oxford has to give and yet remain true to the faith of his Nonconformist ancestors. They were scholars of one of the most Oxonian of Oxford colleges; they entered fully into its life, yet, as they were Baptists when they went to Oxford, so they were Baptists when they left it.

The career of Eric Pearce Gould as a medical student was distinguished both in Oxford and in London. He continued his studies in Germany, in Austria-Hungary and in America; and in due course, like his father before him, he became a surgeon on the honorary staff of the Middlesex Hospital. His outstanding gifts as a surgeon and as a teacher, and his qualities of character, gained him a position of great influence in that institution. Some of us know by experience, and many more by report, what he was to his patients. Like all great doctors, he had gifts of healing which went beyond any technical or scientific attainments. His heart entered into his work as well as his head. The virtue that went out from him and steadied and encouraged his patients was not born solely of his surgical knowledge and experience; but it came in equal measure from his moral and spiritual strength, his gentleness, patience, intelligent sympathy and kindness of heart.

He was continuously a member of this Council from May, 1933, until his death. His professional work usually prevented him from attending our meetings, but his great services to the denomination made it natural and fitting that his membership of the Council should be renewed year after year. Those services were of many kinds. He became Medical Referee of the Annuity Fund in March, 1919, and in that capacity had to consider the reports of local doctors upon men who wished to join the fund, and in some instances had to see the men themselves. In May, 1928, when it had been decided that there should be a medical examination of applicants for ministerial recognition in our denomination, and a medical referee for that purpose was required, he consented to accept that post. Later still, in November, 1928, he undertook the same duties in connection with the Superannuation Fund. He also served the Baptist Missionary Society by acting for many years as the chairman of the Professional Sub-Committee of the Medical Mission Auxiliary, who interview and report upon all doctors and nurses who offer themselves to the Baptist Missionary Society for missionary work. The value of his advice on committee and as referee cannot be exaggerated. But all this work was only part of his service to our denomination. How many are the ministers and the

missionaries who are indebted for health and strength to his surgical skill or to his advice! In how many families of missionaries and of ministers is his name held in grateful remembrance, as the name of his father was, and is remembered still! The Baptist Missionary Society and the Baptist Union may well congratulate themselves and give thanks to God that, for a period of some fifty years, two such men were found willing gratuitously to undertake a work which may fairly be described as the office of consulting surgeon to the English Baptist ministry, at home and abroad.

Eric Pearce Gould was gifted with exceptional powers of mind, and they had been magnificently developed, not only by a fine education, but also by a long and unselfish use of them in the service of his fellow-men. He thought clearly, and he saw quickly which were the essential points in any problem. He was a very wise counsellor, and was often consulted by his friends, not only in medical matters, but in all kinds of doubt and perplexity. His judgment was always sensible, well-balanced and practical. He was patient and fair in arriving at his conclusions, and always prepared to revise an opinion if good cause could be shown for so doing. He was a man of great generosity, and the full range and extent of his giving was very wide, wider indeed, I believe, than anyone knew. He was charitable in his judgments of his fellow-creatures, though he could be stern in his condemnation of unworthy conduct, and he was capable of deep and righteous indignation. His words and his deeds alike indicated strength of purpose and of will. The kindness which many of us here, and many others too, received from him, bestowed with an unforgettable graciousness, was matched by the firmness of his character. It was the kindness of strength. He was a man of a truly religious spirit, and his Christian convictions were the foundation of his life.

He took an active part in temperance work, and often spoke on the temperance platform. I do not imagine that he ever paused to consider whether outspoken advocacy of the temperance cause was or was not likely to advance his personal interests. He would have scorned to allow such calculations to influence his conduct. He believed that in the public interest it was desirable that the temperance case should be presented to the mind and to the conscience of the nation, and he took his full share of that task. I have no time to describe all that he did, but speaking to this Council I must place on record his unflinching readiness to help our own temperance committee. He was a most effective temperance speaker, apt and to the point, and rising at times to real eloquence. He always insisted that, when the temperance issue appears in its true light, it is seen to be

fundamentally not an economic or a physiological, but a moral issue. One or two of his addresses on temperance subjects and on Hospital Sunday are amongst the most admirable things of that kind which I have ever heard. He was indeed peculiarly well equipped for speaking on the temperance question. He was never guilty of exaggeration, and he was always completely fair in his arguments and scrupulously accurate in his facts and figures. He was a master, too, of the whole of the medical and scientific side of the subject. But there was something more than this. In what he said there was warmth as well as light, the moral fervour of deep conviction.

Life for him was often a desperate struggle against ill-health. During his service as a naval doctor in the war of 1914-1918, a tendency to asthma, which had manifested itself but had been overcome earlier in his life, was revived, and he was a martyr to it for the rest of his days. Over and over again, by sheer strength of will he went on with his daily work when he ought to have been in bed. He was not a man who would allow physical weakness to interfere with his exacting standard of duty. It was moral courage of a high order which kept him thus at work, and by this courageous defiance of physical weakness, together with careful husbanding of his time, he accomplished more than many men of uninterrupted health would even think of attempting.

My friendship with him began about thirty years ago. He was a friend who can never be forgotten: large-hearted, unselfish, loyal, true as steel, a man of a most winning courtesy and of a noble and generous spirit, and a humble follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Men of his ability and worth will always be rare, and those who knew him will always think of him with the deepest gratitude. We thank our God upon every remembrance of him, and pray God to comfort and to sustain his devoted wife, who survives him.

C. T. LE QUESNE.