

## Obituary.

MR. WELLESLEY C. BAILEY.

If Danielssen was the "father of modern leprology," Wellesley Bailey was truly the father of humanitarian work among lepers in modern times. His death in January at the ripe age of 90 carries us back 67 years to when he first began his work among lepers in the Punjab. From this has grown the Mission to Lepers, with an income of £76,000 in 1933. In India alone between 6,000 and 7,000 are gathered in the institutions of the Mission, and its work with that of the associated American Mission to Lepers, extends to China, Siam, Africa and other lands. Mr. Bailey was a man of strong character and initiative. He had the advantage of a fine physique and was a man of wide outlook, gifted with the qualities of leadership. The years which he spent in retirement followed a life of notable energy and activity. During the last year he had considerably weakened and was unable to take the daily walks in which he delighted. He became ill with influenza a fortnight before his death.

Mr. Bailey was born at Abbeyleix, Queen's County, Ireland, and was educated at Kilkenny College. He went to India when he was 22 with the intention of joining the Indian Police, but became interested in the work of a missionary friend with whom he stayed in the Punjab, and decided to become a missionary. He was a member of the American Presbyterian Mission in Punjab from 1869 to 1874 and in 1874 joined the Church of Scotland Mission, working as an evangelist and educational missionary in the hill State of Chamba.

All the time his chief interest was in working among the lepers, whose pathetic state, physical, social, and spiritual, aroused his keenest sympathy, and, returning to Ireland on his first furlough, he spoke to friends of the sad plight of the sufferers from this scourge. The Mission to Lepers had its beginning at an informal gathering in a Dublin drawingroom, with the modest aim of collecting £30 a year. Mr. Bailey went back to India, and, as funds became available, developed the activities of the Mission in different parts of the country. His wife's health compelled him to come home in 1882, and he settled in Edinburgh, where he acted as secretary and superintendent until his retirement in 1917. During that period leper asylums and lepers' children's homes were established in India, China, Japan, and other parts of the world. On his retirement he was appointed Honorary Superintendent.