

## The late Dr. Henry Soltau.

**For Many Years a Member of the Council of the North Africa Mission.**

*"He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith."*—ACTS xi. 24.

The above scripture was written concerning Barnabas, but it seems applicable to our late beloved fellow-councillor and brother in the Lord.

Dr. Soltau retired from the N.A.M. Council in 1908, in consequence of a very serious illness which left him in weak health. Some while ago he lost completely the sight of one eye, and partly that of the other; yet in his weakness he was able to do a little to tell of the virtues of Christ to others. He spoke with great tenderness and helpfulness at a conference at which the writer was present on Whit-Monday, and on Sunday, July 23, he was able at Malvern to speak in public. Early on the morning of Tuesday, July 25, an attack of heart trouble released his spirit, and he reached home, to be for ever present with the Lord.

Dr. Soltau's father was an able and well-known Christian teacher, whose books on the Tabernacle were, and still are, standard works on the subject; while his smaller work, "The Soul and Its Difficulties," was circulated by thousands, and brought peace to many.

Dr. Soltau's brothers and sisters have been prominent Christian workers. Mr. George Soltau, after doing excellent work as the Governor of Dr. Barnardo's Ilford Homes, entered upon a world-wide ministry, till called home while in California not very long ago. Mr. William Soltau still represents in England the McCall Mission of France; and Miss Soltau has for years been in charge of the Women's Department of the China Inland Mission in London.

Dr. Soltau himself, after working in the West of England, came to London, where he was associated with both Dr. Barnardo and Mr. Hudson Taylor. In 1875, when about twenty-six, he went out to Burmah with Mr. Stephenson, in connection with the China Inland Mission. After labouring there for some five years, they travelled across China, and he visited Japan, returning to England via the United States. He was present at the

Northfield Conference in 1881, and it is reported that when asked by Mr. Moody whether he had gained many converts, his answer was, "None!" To this Mr. Moody replied, "That's splendid. It's grand to see a man plod on without the stimulus of seeing conversions. That's faith!"

After his marriage, he returned with his wife to Burmah, but serious illness compelled them to come home again. He qualified as a doctor, and ultimately went back to a more healthy part of India. After four years, heart weakness necessitated a return to England. It was then, in 1896, that he kindly consented to join the Council of the North Africa Mission, of which he remained a member, with a brief break, for twelve years, when a serious illness compelled him to retire from it and much other work.

His help on the Council of the N.A.M. was specially valuable. Having been a missionary, he could sympathise with the difficulties of those on the field, his spiritual and medical experience adding greatly to the value of his advice. It was a great trial and loss to the Mission when he was compelled to retire.

Dr. Soltau leaves a widow and a son and daughter, for whom we ask the sympathy and prayers of our readers. The daughter is a missionary in India, and the son is a medical student.

The North Africa Mission has been blessed by having had some very choice, spiritual men upon its Council, and as one by one they have been called home, God has graciously raised up others; but we need to pray that more may be given to the Mission. The work is one of exceptional difficulty, and devoted men are needed, with strong faith, sound judgment, and filled with the Holy Spirit—men who have power with God, and who can draw upon the fulness that is in Christ for the workers and their work. Such a man was Dr. Henry Soltau. May his mantle fall upon some other!

E. H. G.