

Mr Frank Russell

dead

The well-known Dundee bookseller, Mr Frank Russell, died on Saturday in Dundee Royal Infirmary. He was 84.



Mr Russell and his book-lined shop at 26 Barrack Street, which he kept for 44 years, were known to Dundonians all over the world, and particularly to students who had read for their degrees in Dundee.

Down the years thousands made their way to the little bookshop. One always knew when the beginning of the academic year had come round, because Frank Russell's was crowded and spilling out on to the pavement.

In the midst of it all presided the snowy-haired proprietor, who sold books on every conceivable subject to pupils and students of all the city's educational establishments.

30,000 books

In 1927 he opened a branch in the City Arcade known as The Bookshelf. Between both premises it was estimated he stocked some 30,000 books.

The Barrack Street shop was a treasure-house for the browser. It is to be kept on by the family and conducted by Mr Charles D. Petrie, who has assisted Mr Russell for many years.

Mr Russell was educated at Ann Street School and at evening classes in Harris Academy, going on to study natural science.

He was awarded the advanced first class certificate in the London Science and Art examination, and at 25 he won the Halley Medal in the first year of its presentation for general excellence in natural science.

Became manager

This extensive course of evening study took place while he served his apprenticeship as a bookbinder with William Kidd & Sons, Dundee. He joined as a message boy and became manager.

Later he was manager of Victoria Printing Works (George E. Findlay) before opening his Barrack Street shop.

The previous owner was a minister, and the shop was stocked mainly with theological books. Mr Russell extended his stock to include varied subjects, especially medical and technical, and the shop, like Topsy, "just grew."

Mr Russell's customers included Ramsay MacDonald and Kreisler. Until his last illness he was off for only one day through indisposition.

He was an F.S.A. (Scot.) and an ardent church and mission worker. He was superintendent of the Sunday school in Princes Street Church for 25 years.

He had preached in 60 churches in Dundee and district. Latterly, he was in charge of the Grove Street Mission, Dundee.

Mr Russell had been confined to bed for a month. He lived at 47 Princes Street, Monifieth, and is survived by his wife and two sons.

The sons are Messrs George A. Russell, a clerk in the Lochee branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and Mr William A. W. Russell, who teaches science at Trinity College, Glenalmond.