

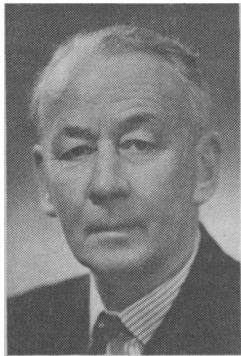
OBITUARY NOTICES

Sir HENEAGE OGILVIE

K.B.E., M.D., M.CH., F.R.C.S.

Sir Heneage Ogilvie, consultant surgeon to Guy's hospital and well known surgical writer and essayist, died on 15 April at the age of 83.

William Heneage Ogilvie was born in Chile and educated at Clifton College; New College, Oxford; and Guy's Hospital. At Oxford he gained first class honours in physiology in 1910, proceeding to his conjoint qualification and his B.M., B.Ch. in 1913. He obtained his F.R.C.S. in 1920, the same year as he obtained his M.Ch. In 1924 he proceeded M.D. In spite of a streak of originality which was anything but an asset



[Bassano & Vandyk

in those days for the young man who wished to get to the top of the London teaching hospital ladder, his progress at Guy's was according to rule: surgical registrar in 1920, senior demonstrator of anatomy in 1922, assistant surgeon (to E. C. Hughes) in 1925, full surgeon in 1938, and consultant surgeon in 1952. A member of the court of examiners and of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, he was vice-president in 1945-7. He was elected Hunterian professor in 1924, and Bradshaw lecturer in 1946. He was joint editor of *The Practitioner* from 1946 to 1962.

Such are the bare bones of Heneage's career, but they were clothed with a personality that made him one of the best-loved and most influential surgeons of his time. Technically he was the last of the great general surgeons of a halcyon period in British surgery. His prime interest was probably the gastrointestinal tract, but orthopaedics was an early love that he never forsook entirely. He had four great passions in life. The first and foremost was surgery. The second was the surgery of war, and he was one of the very few medical men of his generation who had served in three wars: the Balkan war of 1912-3 and the two world wars. His determination to serve in the Balkan war nearly cost him his future at Guy's, as he was advised that if he did such a mad thing as to leave his teaching hospital for such an unorthodox reason he might find it difficult to get back. Back he got, however, fortunately for the surgical reputation of Guy's. In many ways Heneage gave the impression that the happiest professional days of his life had been in these three wars, and the culmination came with his appointment as consultant surgeon to the East Africa Force in 1941 and to the

Middle East Force in 1942, with the rank of Major-General. It was for this service that he was appointed K.B.E. in 1946.

His other two great loves were travel and yachting. The former he exercised through the Surgical Travellers Club, of which he was the founder and the leading spirit for many years, as he led his fellow-members on their peregrinations to all the leading surgical centres in Europe. As a yachtsman he showed the same verve and enthusiasm as he did in everything he undertook. It was at times said that he was as often in the water as in his boat, but that had nothing to do with his skill as a yachtsman, but rather was the result of his ever-questioning mind experimenting with unorthodox design. He was a member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, commodore of the Oxford University Sailing Club, commodore and then president of the United Hospitals Sailing Club, and (most bizarre, but perhaps most beloved of all) commodore of the Imperial Poona Yacht Club.

A brilliant essayist, his many publications, including *Surgery, Orthodox and Heterodox* (1948), *No Miracles among Friends* (1959), and *The Tired Business Man* (1964), provide some of the best medical writing published in recent decades. He was also responsible for the first two editions of *Recent Advances in Surgery*. Three of his other notable publications were *Treatment of Fractures in General Practice* (1929), *Forward Surgery in Modern War* (1944), and *Hernia* (1959). His reputation was international and he was an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada, the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, and the American College of Surgeons, an LL.D. of Witwatersrand University, and an honorary M.S. of Fouad I University.

Heneage was a most attractive character—a curious mixture of shrewdness and ingenuousness. There was always something of the innocence and wonder of a child about him, and it was this trait in his character that made him so sensitive to the inevitable blows of life. Perhaps he was most at home in his beloved Bosham, where he had a cottage and did much of his sailing. In one of his latter-day essays he wrote: "When the Bosham Bell tolls for me I shall hear it, and I will come." It has tolled and he has answered it, leaving behind him a memory that will be treasured by all who have ever worked with him.

Sir JOHN WEIR

G.C.V.O., M.B., CH.B.

Sir John Weir, who was physician to four monarchs including the present Queen, died on 21 April at the age of 91.

John Weir was born at Glasgow and was educated at Allan Glen School and at Glasgow University. After graduating in 1907 he held house appointments at Glasgow

Western Infirmary. In 1908, after personal experience of homoeopathic treatment, he went to Chicago for instruction in homoeo-



[from the portrait by the late Sir James Gunn

pathy and studied at the clinic of Dr. James Tyler Kent, one of Hahnemann's greatest exponents in America. On returning to Britain, Weir came from Glasgow to London. At that time there was practically no sympathy with Kent's ideas among English homoeopaths, but after 40 years of practice in London Weir could say that he had no reason to change the principles he had been taught. His practice was mostly among patients suffering from chronic or constitutional ailments who came to him after they had tried many other forms of treatment. In 1910 he was appointed physician to what is now the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, and his name was associated with this hospital for over half a century. He was also consultant physician to the homoeopathic hospitals at Bristol, Birmingham, Bromley, and Eastbourne.

His association with the British Royal Family began in 1923, when he became physician-in-ordinary to the Prince of Wales (now the Duke of Windsor), and he continued in that appointment during Edward VIII's brief reign. He was physician to Queen Maud of Norway from 1929 until her death in 1938, when he was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Order of St. Olav. In 1936 he became physician to Queen Mary and remained not only her physician but her friend until her death in 1953. In 1936 he was also appointed physician to the Duke and Duchess of York, and when the Duke came to the throne as King George VI Sir John was made physician to the Royal Household and continued to hold that office in the Household of Queen Elizabeth II. In 1952 he was appointed physician to the Queen. He was created C.V.O. in 1926, K.C.V.O. in 1932, and G.C.V.O. in 1939. In 1949 he received the Royal Victorian Chain.

He wrote a good deal on homoeopathic subjects. A notable contribution was *Forty Years of Homoeopathic Practice*, which formed his presidential address to the British Homoeopathic Congress in 1950. He had much to do with the establishment of the Faculty of Homoeopathy. In 1943 a memorandum of incorporation was granted by the Board of Trade and Weir became the faculty's first president. He would be seen perhaps at his best in a gathering of 20 or 30 at the monthly meetings of the faculty in the board room of the hospital in London.

Here was a company speaking an unusual technical language, using terms not to be found in ordinary medical dictionaries, a kind of dissenting sect in medicine. Of this company Sir John Weir, whether in the chair or in the back row, was the dominating personality with his charm, geniality, and quiet Scottish humour. Nothing pleased him more than to detect what he considered to be a change of attitude in orthodox medicine towards the therapeutic aspects of homoeopathy.

In 1960, at a dinner at which the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were guests, Sir John's portrait, painted by the late Sir James Gunn, was presented to the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital to mark his half-century of service. The main detail of the portrait is reproduced here.

He was a deeply religious man, and one of his interests was the Missionary School of Medicine, of which he was treasurer. He was a member of the B.M.A. for over 50 years.

R. B. S. writes: Sir John Weir had been for many years the doyen of homoeopathic medicine in this country. He served the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital for half a century and the private wards there were named after him. Even those who were unable to accept his doctrine were incapable of resisting his personal charm. A solid and uncompromising Scotsman of rectitude, experience, and great wisdom, he retained nevertheless an endearing naivety. The first impression he gave may have been one of austerity, but the twinkle in his eye rapidly corrected it. He had a reputation as a raconteur and carried a notebook in which were recorded innumerable stories sent him by correspondents throughout the country. He was in great demand at gatherings of Scotsmen in London, whom he would entertain with "wee stories" of irreproachable propriety. Few of his acquaintances will forget his customary overture of "Did I give you the one about . . .?" He served the Royal Family with devotion from his first appointment to the Prince of Wales, now Duke of Windsor, in 1923 until he retired from the office of physician to the Queen in 1968. To many of his illustrious patients he was as much an old and trusted friend as a medical adviser. Sir John was a bachelor and his one relaxation was golf. He was unshakably traditionalist and conservative. He confessed once that he had spent 53 consecutive summer holidays in Gullane, where he had always been to the same hotel and had always occupied the same bedroom.

R. O. WARD

D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., T.D., M.CH., F.R.C.S.

Mr. R. Ogier Ward, formerly urological surgeon and consultant to the British Army, died on 4 April.

Ronald Ogier Ward was born in London, where his father was in general practice. He was educated at Magdalen College School; Queen's College, Oxford; and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he qualified in 1912. During his student career he joined the Honourable Artillery Company, in which he found an outlet for his restless energy.

Always with a zest for travel and adventure, he served with the British Ambulance Unit attached to the Turkish Forces in the Serbo-Turkish war of 1912. In 1914, at the beginning of the first world war, he was mobilized as major in the H.A.C., commanding a battery of the 293rd Armoured Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He proved a brave and tenacious soldier, winning the M.C. and later the D.S.O. for gallantry when saving his guns from imminent capture by the enemy. On demobilization Ward took the F.R.C.S. and M.Ch.Oxon. and became chief assistant to Professor George Gask in the surgical professorial unit at St. Bartholomew's, London, where it became evident that his main interest was to be in urology, and this became his specialty. He was appointed surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, St. Philip's Hospital, and the Royal Masonic and Miller Hospitals, where his diagnostic skill, his ability as a teacher, and above all his neat and scrupulous surgical skill will long be remembered. At the beginning of the second world war, when to his regret he was considered too old for combatant duties, he volunteered again and served as surgeon in France, Egypt, and East Africa. After demobilization he returned to his busy and successful London practice and played a prominent part in the foundation of the British Association of Urological Surgeons, of which he became the first president.

He survived a severe illness in 1950, and although he was able to resume his practice for some years he was forced to give up the shooting and fishing which he enjoyed so much. When in due course he was unable to live anything but a sedentary life he became absorbed in painting, producing many landscapes, scenes from still life, and portraits. His application and perseverance were typical of his character, and in this he displayed again the same scrupulous approach. He achieved an above average skill. In recent years his physical powers steadily failed, but there was never one word of complaint. As always, he was kind and considerate to others, and he preserved to the end his dry sense of humour. Outwardly somewhat austere, there was beneath this a warm-hearted personality which inspired admiration and affection. A modest man, very few knew of his achievements as a mountaineer and that he had been offered the leadership of the Frank Smythe Everest Expedition in the inter-war years.

He was fortunate in his happy family life, and he leaves his wife and two sons. To those who were privileged to know him intimately he was a truly remarkable man.

—R.J.S.

Sir CHARLES HERCUS

D.S.O., O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.ED., F.R.A.C.P., F.R.A.C.S.

Sir Charles Hercus, who was formerly dean of the medical school, University of Otago, New Zealand, died on 26 March at the age of 82.

Charles Ernest Hercus was born at Dunedin, New Zealand, and educated at Christchurch Boys' High School. In 1909 he went to the University of Otago and studied first dentistry and then medicine, graduating

M.B., Ch.B. in 1914. He proceeded M.D. in 1921 and took the D.P.H. in 1922. He was elected F.R.A.C.P. in 1939, F.R.A.C.S. in 1950, F.R.C.P.ED. in 1953, and F.R.C.P. in 1956. After a house appointment in 1914 Hercus enlisted in the New Zealand Medical Corps and served in the first world war in Gallipoli and elsewhere. In 1917 as D.A.D.M.S. of the Anzac Division he was involved in malaria control in the Jordan Valley. He was awarded the D.S.O. in 1917, appointed O.B.E. in 1919, and mentioned five times in dispatches. On demobilization he came to Britain and studied for the M.D. and D.P.H., obtaining these on return to New Zealand. There he joined the public health service, studying childhood goitre. His research with Dr. Noel Benson led to the iodization of domestic salt in 1924. From 1922 until 1955 he was professor of public health and bacteriology at the University of Otago. In 1955 microbiology was separated as a new chair and he continued as professor of preventive and social medicine. In 1957 Hercus succeeded Sir Lindo Ferguson as dean of the medical school. He served on the university council for 22 years, and here and on the professional board he looked after the interests of the medical faculty. He was a guiding light in the transition of the Otago medical school from a vocational teaching centre to a modern medical school with many departments supported by research units, and was masterly in his dealings with politicians and government.

He was knighted in 1947. An invitation to give the Banting memorial lecture at Toronto in 1952 was one of his most cherished honours. Sir Charles retired from his deanship in 1958 when he was 70, but kept an office in the medical school and helped to run the hydatid unit at Taieri. As a man he was shy, but eminently approachable. Physically and mentally he had great endurance. He was a mine of information on the flora and fauna of the countryside, and he was a keen tennis player.

He is survived by his wife and two sons and a daughter.

H. C. ROBERTSON

M.B., CH.B.

Dr. H. C. Robertson, formerly in general practice at Derby, died on 14 February at the age of 70.

Harold Clark Robertson was born at Glasgow and educated at the university, where he graduated in 1924. Soon afterwards he went into general practice at Derby, first as assistant and then as partner. On the advent of the N.H.S. he worked single handed for some years until ill health obliged him to restrict himself to private practice.

He was a most conscientious doctor and was well liked by his patients. He had a nice sense of humour which helped him to laugh off hard work. Good at games, he particularly enjoyed golf, and he was an intelligent member of a medical bridge four, attending its sessions regularly with enthusiasm tempered with Scottish caution. Harold Robertson never married, and he is survived by his brother and sister.—G.F.K.

T. M. FORRESTER

B.Sc., M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.P.ED.

Dr. T. M. Forrester, senior lecturer in therapeutics at the University of Aberdeen and consultant physician to the Aberdeen teaching hospitals, died on 17 March at the age of 42.

Thomas Martin Forrester was born at Inverness and graduated B.Sc. with honours in biological sciences from the University of Aberdeen in 1949. After working as a mycologist at the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research he decided in 1952 to study medicine and graduated in 1957. A year later he was appointed lecturer in the department of materia medica, University of Aberdeen, and he remained in that department until he died, having been made senior lecturer in 1969.

Forrester was one of the best teachers in the medical school. He identified himself closely with his students, keeping in touch with them for many years after they had graduated. His knowledge of medicine was profound, and he was sceptical of unproved claims and critical in his approach to any clinical problems. These attributes impressed themselves on students and for them he was an ideal link between the basic discipline of pharmacology on the one hand and therapeutics and clinical medicine on the other.

There are countless patients in the north-east of Scotland who regarded Tom Forrester as "my hospital doctor," and there are many who will miss his words of wisdom and comfort in the wards and out-patient clinics. His own research interests were in diuretics, hypnotics, and diseases of the kidney. Before becoming a medical student he had a severe illness and he carried the consequences of it for the rest of his life. The day before he died he undertook a full quota of teaching duties.

He is survived by his wife.—A.G.M.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. G. HUGHES

D.S.O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. G. Hughes, formerly in general practice at Amesbury, Wiltshire, died on 17 March at the age of 90.

Geoffrey Wallace Grainger Hughes was educated at King's College, London, passing through the school and college to the old hospital in Portugal Street. He qualified in 1902, and in 1903 was commissioned as lieutenant, R.A.M.C. In 1904 he was seconded to the Egyptian Army, where he was inspector of recruiting, and served there until his marriage in 1911. A year later he became a specialist in ophthalmology. On the outbreak of the first world war he went to France with the British Expeditionary Force and commanded field ambulances, a casualty clearing station, and, in 1919, a hospital in the Rhine Army. He was awarded the D.S.O. for personal gallantry at Loos. After the war Hughes went to India, where he saw more active service in Waziristan before going to Aden. He finally returned home in 1924 after

more than 10 years almost continuous foreign service and retired from the Army in 1926.

Geoffrey Hughes entered a new phase of his varied career in 1927, becoming a successful and much loved general practitioner at Amesbury. He had just sold his practice with a view to retirement in 1939 when war broke out, and though beyond the age limit for recall, Hughes at once rejoined the Army and served until 1942 as O.C. Military Hospital, Bulford. In 1942 he retired to Devon but soon found a further opportunity for service by acting as medical officer of health of a rural district in place of a doctor called up for the Army, and also as medical officer to the Home Guard.

In his younger days Geoffrey Hughes was an above-average lawn tennis player. His long retirement in Devon gave him the chance to indulge his love of trout fishing and to develop his lifelong interest in local history. The latter found expression in several published papers and in 13 years' service as secretary of the parochial history section of the Devonshire Association, combined from 1952 to 1961 with the secretaryship of the Devonshire Association itself. He found other opportunities of service as a devoted churchman and as secretary of the Moreton-hampstead cottage hospital.

Hughes was very happily married, and his devoted care of his blind and ailing wife until her death in 1969 was a fitting culmination of a life of unassuming devotion to duty. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is a doctor.—M.H.H.

Surgeon Captain R. M. LATTA

M.B., CH.B.

Surgeon Captain R. M. Latta, formerly surgical specialist in the Naval Hospital at Chatham, Haslar, Plymouth, and in Malta, died on 22 February at the age of 59.

Robert McMillan Latta graduated at Glasgow in 1933. After a short spell in general practice he entered the Royal Navy and served for 31 years until his retirement in 1963. His experience was wide, ashore and afloat, and after the second world war he developed a particular interest in orthopaedic surgery, initially in rehabilitation work and later as a surgical specialist at Chatham, Haslar, Plymouth, and in Malta. There was a second period of active service in the hospital ship *Maine* in the Korean war. From this commission he produced an able report on the treatment of war wounds, with the warning that the hard-earned lessons of the 1939 war were rapidly being forgotten. His ability as an orthopaedic surgeon was widely recognized not only within the Service but also by his election to the British Orthopaedic Association. In 1967 he was appointed honorary surgeon to the Queen.

Robin Latta was much more than an efficient naval officer and a highly skilled surgeon. At first he might appear diffident and almost excessively shy, but to his many

friends he was soon revealed as a man of great personality and character and of a gay and charming disposition. With his splendid physique he had played rugby for his university and in later life had taken up skiing with great enthusiasm and success, representing the Navy on more than one occasion. He had a natural talent for music and wherever he was stationed he was soon to be found singing in a choir or as an organist—whether in the Naval Hospital chapel at Bighi or in some Devon or Dorset village, wherever he happened to be stationed.

After retirement he settled in Dorset, and it is sad that after his long service this happy and active period of his life proved so brief. To his wife and three daughters some comfort must come from the great affection and respect of so many shipmates, colleagues, grateful patients, and all who are so glad to have known him.—J.S.

PHYLLIS DAGNALL

B.Sc., M.D., D.C.P., M.R.C.PATH.

Dr. Phyllis Dagnall, consultant in chemical pathology to the Chichester and Graylingwell group of hospitals, died on 18 April at the age of 59.

Phyllis Dagnall began her professional life as a chemist and graduated B.Sc. with honours in chemistry at Manchester University in 1934. She followed this with a diploma in teaching, and for a year taught chemistry before accepting various commercial appointments. She married in 1939; and in 1942 started a new career as a medical student at the Royal Free Hospital, qualifying with the Conjoint diploma in 1947. In 1948 she graduated M.B., B.S., and proceeded M.D. in 1952. She took the D.C.P. in 1950. After various appointments she became consultant in chemical pathology to the Chichester and Graylingwell group of hospitals in 1959. During the years that followed she was responsible for centralizing the chemical pathology for the group. In 1963 she became a founder member of the Royal College of Pathologists.

Dr. Dagnall's department at St. Richard's Hospital at Chichester was always a hive of activity, with Phyllis herself constantly trying out some new chemical method for more rapid and accurate results. She was a stalwart in her support of automation of chemical methods, and opposed to over-centralization of laboratory work, believing that comprehensive laboratory services should be available to every district hospital.

Phyllis was no "dyed in the wool" chemist. Her flower garden, her painting, and the decoration of her home at Arundel showed other facets of her personality. She was fond of river and sea, and had been a keen diver when a medical student. Her cheerfulness, naturally affectionate nature, and consideration for all the staff—both medical and lay—will be remembered along with the undaunted courage she showed to the last. She is survived by her husband.—D.P.K.