

Obituary

J. C. BRASH, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.Sc.
LL.D., F.R.S.Ed.

Professor J. Couper Brash, emeritus professor of anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, died suddenly at his home in Edinburgh on January 19. He was 71 years of age.

James Couper Brash was born at Glasgow on October 24, 1886, the son of James Brash, J.P. Educated at George Watson's College and the University of Edinburgh, he graduated B.Sc. in 1908 and M.B., Ch.B. in 1910. After holding the post of resident physician at the Royal Infirmary and working as a demonstrator of anatomy at Edinburgh, he became an assistant in the anatomical department in the University of Leeds. During the first world war he served as a major in the R.A.M.C. in France and Belgium and was awarded the M.C. Soon after his return to civilian life he was appointed assistant professor of anatomy at Birmingham University, becoming professor in 1922 and, later, dean of the medical faculty. In 1923 the university granted him the degree of M.D. When in 1931 he returned to Edinburgh as successor to Professor A. Robinson in the chair of anatomy, Professor Brash had already become recognized as one of the leading anatomists in Britain. His own research was concerned mainly with embryology and the development of the jaws and teeth, on which he wrote several monographs for the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. With Professor J. Glaister he was the author of a book entitled *Medico-Legal Aspects of the Ruxton Case*. He also took over from Professor Robinson the editing of *Cunningham's Manual of Practical Anatomy and Cunningham's Textbook of Anatomy*.

Professor Brash, who retired from the chair of anatomy at Edinburgh in 1954, received many distinctions during his career as a research worker and teacher. He was a past-president of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland; he was an examiner in anatomy at Cambridge and other universities; at the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. in 1922 he was vice-president of the Section of Anatomy; at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1932, he was Struthers lecturer; from the University of Leeds he received the honorary D.Sc. and from the University of St. Andrews the honorary LL.D.; and he was an honorary member of the British Dental Association.

Professor Brash married Margaret, daughter of William Henderson, of Leslie, Fife, and she survives him together with one son and one daughter.

S. G. WELDON, C.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Surgeon Rear-Admiral S. G. Weldon, medical officer in charge of the Royal Naval Hospital, Malta, and Command Medical Officer, Mediterranean Station, died suddenly in Malta on January 11. He was 57 years of age.

Samuel Gerald Weldon was born at Linziestown, Co. Wexford, in 1900. From St. Bees School he went on to study medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1922. After holding a resident appointment at Monkstown Hospital, Dublin, he took the D.P.H. and the L.M. in 1923 and joined the Royal Navy as a surgeon lieutenant. After serving in the battleships *Marlborough* and *Revenge* he began to specialize in bacteriology and was appointed pathologist at the R.N. Hospital, Plymouth. In 1934 he went to Malta as naval health officer, and later he went to Alexandria in the same capacity. During the war he served in H.M.S. *Medway* and worked for a time as pathologist at the R.N. Hospital, Haslar. His next appointment was that of naval medical officer of health at Malta, and from there he moved

to a similar post at Plymouth, where he was director of the clinical pathology, pulmonary tuberculosis, and infectious disease units at the R.N. Hospital. At the beginning of 1956 he was promoted surgeon rear-admiral and appointed medical officer in charge of the R.N. Hospital, Malta. He was also medical adviser to the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Mediterranean.

Surgeon Rear-Admiral Weldon was appointed C.B.E. in 1953 and Queen's Honorary Physician in 1956. He is survived by his wife and by a son and a daughter.

C. L. PASRICHA, M.B., B.Chir.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Pasricha, who was medical adviser to the High Commissioner for India, and before that director of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, died at Hammersmith Hospital on January 11. He was 60 years of age.

Chiranji Lal Pasricha was born in the Punjab on September 9, 1897, and was educated at the Leys School and Caius College, Cambridge, where he obtained first-class honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1918. Going on to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he won a Shuter scholarship and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1920. Three years later he took the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. After holding the resident posts of house-physician at St. Bartholomew's and house-physician and house-surgeon at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, he was in practice for a short time at Bilston, Staffordshire, before he entered the Indian Medical Service as a lieutenant in 1925. For about a year he worked at the No. 1 Indian General Hospital in Shanghai, and then began research on intestinal diseases at the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta. In 1933 he was appointed professor of pathology and bacteriology in the school, of which, from 1945 to 1947, he was also director. Another post he held was that of superintendent of the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases at Calcutta. In 1939 he was awarded the Minto Memorial Medal "for distinguished research work in tropical medicine carried out by an Indian worker." During the second world war he was an assistant director of medical services at Army Headquarters, New Delhi. On the disbandment of the I.M.S. in 1947 he returned to England, and from 1948 to 1955 was medical adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London. In the latter year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Health. During the period of his service at Calcutta Colonel Pasricha was a frequent contributor, usually in collaboration with other writers, to the *Indian Medical Gazette* and the *Indian Journal of Medical Research*. He was also the author of the chapter on cholera in the tenth edition (1936) of Sir William Moore's book, *Family Medicine and Hygiene for India*, and he had helped in the revision of the 1945 edition of the *Indian Field Service Hygiene Notes*.

R. P. H. BLACKSTOCK, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed.

Dr. R. P. H. Blackstock, who was in general practice at Eskbank, Midlothian, for over fifty years, died at his home there on October 25. He was 79 years of age.

Robert Patrick Hall Blackstock was born on May 3, 1878, the only son of the Rev. Robert Blackstock, and was educated at the Royal High School, Edinburgh. He studied medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and took the Scottish triple qualification in 1902. Shortly afterwards he succeeded Dr. J. C. Whyte in the practice at Eskbank, and there he remained until the end of his life, looking after his patients up to two days before his death.

W. A. A. writes: The late Dr. R. P. H. Blackstock was one of the faithful group of men, the general practitioners, whose untiring work among their patients is productive of so much good. When the need arose for him to be called in consultation he gave his opinion and his advice, and if he thought a prescription was needed he gave one, but often said, "No one prescribes less medicine than I do." When

he came to visit, to see how the patient was progressing, he would conclude with a friendly chat and then jump up and say, "I must be off, I have the half of Scotland to see to-night." Now one has the happy memory of a man who gave of his best and who believed, as did Lord Lister, that his work was "to tend the fleshly tabernacle of the immortal spirit."

J. C. McCALLUM, M.B., D.P.H.

Dr. J. C. McCallum, formerly an assistant county medical officer of health for Argyle and one-time captain of the Scottish Rugby fifteen, died last month in Edinburgh. He was 74 years of age.

John Cameron McCallum, the son of the Rev. Malcolm McCallum, was educated at George Watson's College and Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1910. Two years later, having decided to follow a career in public health, he took the D.P.H., and for many years thereafter was assistant county medical officer of health for Argyle. During this time he lived at Oban. In 1927 he went into general practice at Edinburgh, retiring in 1948 to a farm near Oban. Three years ago, however, he returned to Edinburgh. Dr. McCallum was one of the finest forwards who have ever played for Scotland, being as fast as any of the backs. He was capped 26 times between 1901 and 1912, and captained the Scottish fifteen. He also captained the Watsonian team for a good many years.

Dr. McCallum is survived by his wife and a daughter.

HOLDEN CARSON, M.B., B.Ch.

Dr. Holden Carson, who, after over ten years as a general practitioner at Ashton-under-Lyne, was a medical officer, first in the Ministry of Health and then in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, died on December 8, 1957. He was 73 years of age.

Holden Carson was born on January 18, 1884, and studied medicine at the former Queen's College of Belfast and in Dublin, graduating M.B., B.Ch. from the old Royal University of Ireland in 1906. After graduation he held the appointments of assistant house-surgeon at Taunton Hospital, junior house-surgeon at the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary, and resident medical officer at the Grimsby and District Hospital. He served with the R.A.M.C. throughout the first world war, being twice mentioned in dispatches. From 1918 to 1931 he was in general practice at Ashton-under-Lyne, where he became also assistant physician to the infirmary. Appointed a deputy regional medical officer under the Ministry of Health in 1931, he later transferred to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, retiring in 1954. A member of the British Medical Association for very nearly fifty years, he was chairman of the Ashton-under-Lyne Division in 1924-5. In 1917 he married Nesta Elizabeth Thomas, and she survives him together with his younger son, Major J. H. Carson. His elder son was killed in the Battle of Britain while serving as a pilot in the R.A.F.

A. P. AGNEW, M.B., F.R.C.P.Ed.

Dr. A. P. Agnew, senior consultant physician to the Southern Ayrshire group of hospitals, died suddenly at Ballochmyle Hospital on December 3, 1957. He was 59 years of age.

Alan Percy Agnew was born on February 10, 1898, the son of Dr. Alexander P. Agnew, who was formerly in practice at Padiham, near Burnley. From St. Peter's School, York, he went on to Glasgow University to study medicine, graduating M.B., Ch.B., with honours, in 1920. After holding resident appointments at the Glasgow Western Infirmary and at the Weymouth and District Hospital, he joined his father in practice at Padiham. He remained there until shortly before the second world war, during which he served in the Emergency Medical Service, being appointed physician to the Hospital at Gleneagles. He transferred in 1942 to

Ballochmyle, where later he became chief consultant physician. When the National Health Service came into being in 1948 he remained in the hospital service, becoming consultant physician to other hospitals in the Southern Ayrshire group, including the Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine, and the Garrick Hospital, Stranraer. He was elected M.R.C.P.Ed. in 1938, becoming a Fellow of the College in 1951. Dr. Agnew married Mary, daughter of the late Bailie Stephen Alexander, and she died three weeks before him.

H. S. writes: Dr. Alan Agnew has passed on, and he is greatly missed by his colleagues, patients, and friends all over Ayrshire. He was a well-loved physician, painstaking and scrupulously careful in establishing a correct diagnosis. In this he influenced the careers of numbers of his junior physicians on the hospital staff. He was also an unfailing friend of the nursing and administrative staff. The general practitioners found him to be untiring in his efforts to share their problems, and a domiciliary visit was a source of great encouragement and inspiration. The patients loved him for the deep personal interest he took in their troubles and for his unfailing memory for their faces and illnesses, even years after. We have lost a truly great physician and a loyal and dependable colleague.

E. A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. E. A. Thomson, who had practised ophthalmology at different times in Jerusalem, Beirut, and Truro, among other places, died on December 10, 1957, at Bristol, where he had been living in retirement. He was 72 years of age.

Eric Alexander Thomson was born on April 1, 1885, and was educated at St. Andrews University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B., with distinction, in 1907. For a time he assisted the professor of physiology in St. Andrews University, but later went out to the Ophthalmic Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem as a junior surgeon. During the first world war he was ophthalmic surgeon to the Falmouth Military Hospital, and after the war he spent some years at Beirut, where he founded an eye hospital. Some years later he returned to England to practise as an ophthalmic surgeon in Truro. He is survived by his widow and two daughters.

C. H. C. writes: A small tribute to that outstanding but retiring member of our profession, Eric Thomson, may be of some interest. His grandfather resigned from a professorship of Hebrew in Scotland to become an ordained missionary in the old Turkish Empire and was the first to translate the Bible into Turkish. His father became manager of the Ottoman Bank in Constantinople, and hence Eric Thomson's early career was spent upon the shores of the Bosphorus, at Bebek, a little outside the city. He remembered, so he would say, seeing eunuchs from the Sultan's palace throwing a sack containing a human being into the Bosphorus; and one of his friends, if not his nurse, was governess to the Sultan's son, and lived in the palace. He therefore grew up familiar with what was probably the most cosmopolitan city in Europe, and he could converse well in English, French, German, Russian, Turkish, and Italian, and, later, he added to these a good knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, Spanish, and Egyptian hieroglyphics. His career at St. Andrews University was outstanding, and he took a great number of prizes and medals. When at Jerusalem he was, as I know, *persona grata* among the Turkish, Arabic, and Christian communities and had many patients and friends among them, including the Mufti of Jerusalem, who caused so much trouble during the British regime in the Holy Land. He also had the distinction of being, with others, a traveller from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among thieves, who would have left him dead had it not been for his resistance and tenacity. He winged one of his assailants, who were dragging him, his housekeeper, and a Russian woman pilgrim towards a precipice on the road edge. The walk to Jericho continued, but the next afternoon Thomson