

W. M. HUNTER, M.B., B.Ch.

Dr. W. M. Hunter, who had practised in Crumlin, Co. Antrim, for over fifty years, died on May 8. He was 81 years of age.

William Matthew Hunter was born in Antrim on September 21, 1876, and was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and the former Queen's College, Belfast, graduating M.B., B.Ch., with honours, from the Royal University of Ireland in 1899. In 1902 he was appointed to the Crumlin dispensary, and practised there until his retirement in 1955. His widow survived him by only three weeks.

J. S. R. writes: Dr. W. M. Hunter devoted his entire being to the welfare of his fellow men and tended his patients with a zeal and selflessness far beyond the most rigorous calls of duty. Despite flood and blizzard, in hail or shine, no call upon his services ever went unheeded. He was beloved and respected throughout the country for his integrity and unflinching courtesy to friend and stranger alike. He was a member of the British Medical Association for fifty years, and a member of the Ulster Medical Society throughout his professional life. Although practising in a country area, he kept himself abreast of the most recent trends and developments in modern medicine. On the establishment of the neighbouring Royal Air Force station at Aldergrove he was appointed its first medical officer, a post which he held until the outbreak of hostilities in 1939. Throughout his life he was closely associated with the Presbyterian Church in Crumlin, and was a zealous member of the masonic order, being a past master of the Crumlin lodge. He will long be remembered in this Ulster village, and to his two daughters and three sons, one of whom is ear, nose, and throat consultant to the Ophthalmic and Royal Victoria Hospitals, Belfast, is extended the deepest sympathy of all who were privileged to have known this physician, counsellor, and friend.

W. HIRST BATEMAN, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. W. Hirst Bateman died at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on May 11 after a short illness. He was 83 years of age, and had lived at Keswick since his retirement in 1949 after forty-eight years of practice in Rochdale.

William Hirst Bateman was born on August 18, 1874, and graduated M.B., Ch.B., with honours, from the Victoria University of Manchester in 1897. He then held resident posts at the Manchester Southern and Maternity hospitals and was a house-physician at Manchester Royal Infirmary. After a short period as an assistant in general practice in his native town of Farnworth, Lancashire, he took over a practice in Rochdale in 1901. Appointed to the staff of the Rochdale Infirmary in 1904, he served in an active surgical capacity for thirty-five years, and at the start of the National Health Service in 1948 was made a member of the hospital management committee and a consultant orthopaedic surgeon. A staunch supporter of the British Medical Association all his professional life, he became the second honorary secretary of the Rochdale Division in 1904, and from 1922 to 1927 was its chairman. He was also president of the former Lancashire and Cheshire Branch in 1924-5. A justice of the peace since 1920, Dr. Bateman became the first chairman of the Rochdale juvenile court, holding the post until 1946. Two of his three sons entered the medical profession: Wing Commander Donald S. Bateman was killed on active service at Benghazi in 1943 and Mr. Geoffrey H. Bateman is surgeon to the ear, nose, and throat department at St. Thomas's Hospital.

A. M. McM. and J. F. K. write: Apart from his surgical work and his large general practice Dr. W. Hirst Bateman was a part-time medical officer of health for an urban district for many years, local secretary for the Epsom College Foundation Fund, and medical officer to a firm which was itself a pioneer in the asbestos industry. He acquired such

a knowledge of the problems of asbestosis that at the Manchester Assizes in 1940 Mr. Justice Wrottesley said of him, "Dr. Bateman has possibly a larger experience of this rare disease than anybody else in the world." A careful and skilful general surgeon, he is best remembered, however, for his work with children. Largely through his efforts a 50-bed Memorial Home for Crippled Children was opened in 1913. Initially in sole charge of the work for many years, he sought advice from many people, including Robert Jones (Later Sir Robert), to make sure that the home was fully equipped for its purpose. He rendered incomparable service to the children of the area in those early days of orthopaedics, taking such cases as required operations into his beds at the Rochdale Infirmary, and he broke his final link with the work only when he retired to the Lake District. When one realized in how many ways he had served his community, the only surprise felt when he was made an honorary freeman of the borough in 1956 was that the honour had been delayed so long. Only eighteen months before his death he was a guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Rochdale Division of the B.M.A., and his speech on that occasion showed him to be as alert as ever, and showed also that he still irradiated that charm which was so characteristic of him. Throughout his life, among his many and various duties, he always found time to make the person he was seeing, be he doctor or patient, feel that his problems were the most important ones of the day, in a way that only the very best doctors can do. He was always kindly, always courteous, and a very good friend to very many people, and his death severs almost the last link with his generation of medical men in Rochdale.

To his widow, his two sons, and his daughter we extend our sincere sympathy.

B. W. ARMSTRONG, O.B.E., M.C., M.B., B.S.
M.R.C.S.

Dr. B. W. Armstrong, formerly medical superintendent of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, died suddenly on May 14 at his home at Birchington, Kent. He was 68 years of age.

Basil William Armstrong was born at Ryhall, Rutland, on July 12, 1889. He studied medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., in 1913. After holding a resident appointment at St. Mary's, he served throughout the first world war in the R.A.M.C., winning the M.C. and being mentioned in dispatches. Returning to St. Mary's Hospital in 1919, he worked there as house-surgeon, resident anaesthetist, and medical superintendent, taking his M.B., B.S. in 1920. In 1923 he was appointed to the post of medical superintendent of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, where he remained for 31 years. During this time he became a leading authority on the treatment of surgical tuberculosis, contributing articles on cervical adenitis, chronic osteomyelitis, and abdominal tuberculosis to specialist journals and textbooks. In 1955 he was appointed O.B.E. for his pioneer work in the treatment of these diseases.

McK. McC. writes: Basil Armstrong joined the R.A.M.C. immediately war was declared on August 4, 1914; he went to France on August 20 and was at once posted to the 2nd King's Liverpool Battalion, 2nd Division, on the Aisne as regimental medical officer. From there his battalion was transported to the Ypres area, where he and other Old Contemptibles at heavy cost kept the Germans from the sea after four weeks of very heavy fighting in the Ypres salient. Promoted major and acting C.O. of the 100 Field Ambulance, he was awarded the M.C. and a mention in dispatches for his bravery in collecting and evacuating the wounded of his brigade from the battlefield in October, 1918. It is seldom realized that the R.A.M.C. casualties were proportionately heavier than those of other services such as Gunners, Engineers, and Army Service Corps.