

OBITUARY NOTICES

Sir PAUL FILDES

O.B.E., SC.D., M.B., B.CHIR. F.R.S.

Sir Paul Fildes, a microbiologist of outstanding achievement and formerly director of chemical bacteriology with the Medical Research Council, died on 5 February aged 88.

Paul Gordon Fildes was born in London, a son of the painter Sir Luke Fildes. He was educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge, and at the London Hospital, graduating M.B., B.Chir. in 1909. In the same year he was appointed assistant bacteriologist to the London Hospital, and continued in that appointment until 1934.

His first publication of note, in 1911, was the classical study of haemophilia in which he was associated with William Bulloch, director of his department. In this monograph true haemophilia was first defined as a specific clinical entity. Another of his collaborators at the London was James McIntosh, with whom he worked on syphilis and the Wassermann reaction and on anaerobes. A product of this collaboration was the McIntosh and Fildes anaerobic jar, first used extensively in studying clostridial wound infections in the first world war. During that war Fildes served in the Royal Navy, and was in charge of the pathology laboratory at the R.N. Hospital, Haslar, where he worked on cerebrospinal fever and influenza. His studies of *Haemophilus influenzae* led to the definition of a medium for its cultivation which is known by his name.

In 1920 he founded, and for some years edited, the *British Journal of Experimental Pathology*, of which he remained director throughout his life. With J. G. C. Ledingham he edited the monumental *System of Bacteriology in Relation to Medicine*, published by the Medical Research Council in 1930.

In 1934 he left the London Hospital to direct a new M.R.C. unit for the study of bacterial chemistry which was established at the Middlesex Hospital. Until then bacterial metabolism had been studied very little and culture media were compounded largely on an empirical basis. With several younger collaborators Fildes set about determining the nutritional requirements of bacteria. At this time the sulphonamides came into therapeutic use, and Fildes was responsible with D. C. Woods for showing that these substances arrest bacterial growth by preventing the utilization of *p*-aminobenzoic acid, a previously unrecognized growth factor. This revealed a new principle, that of bacterial inhibition by metabolite analogues. The work done in this unit had far-reaching effects. It helped to establish a new branch of biological science in which microbiologists have been joined by biochemists and others. The study of bacterial genetics has been almost wholly derived from its work. Largely owing to Fildes's influence there arose a new generation of

microbiologists, using an almost new language, and demanding an explanation for observed phenomena in precise chemical terms. These changes represent a major development in the history of biological science, and few changes of such magnitude can ever have been so largely due to the work of a single man.

During the second world war Fildes was closely concerned with the work of the microbiological department of the Ministry at Porton. It is a loss to science that publication of much of this work was thought to be inadvisable. In 1949 he left the M.R.C. unit and moved to Oxford, working thenceforth mainly on bacteriophage at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology.

Fildes was appointed O.B.E. in 1919 and knighted in 1946. He received doctorates in science from the universities of Cambridge and Reading. In 1934 he was elected F.R.S., receiving the Royal medal of the society in 1953 and the Copley medal in 1963. He was a lucid and careful writer, and a severe critic of slipshod expression. As a speaker he had the advantage of a deep voice and a strong but controlled sense of humour, and his delivery was slow. Many of his junior colleagues owed much to his friendship as well as to the privilege of working with him. He was unmarried.

G. BROCK CHISHOLM

C.C., C.B.E., M.C. M.D.

Dr. G. Brock Chisholm, a Canadian psychiatrist who became director-general of the World Health Organization from 1948 until 1953, died on 2 February at the age of 74.

George Brock Chisholm was born in Oakville, Ontario. He served with distinction in the first world war and was awarded the M.C. and Bar. After the war he completed his medical studies and went to England to do postgraduate work in psychiatry before going into general practice in his home town, working there from 1925 until 1931. Subsequently he was on the staff of the Institute of Human Relations at Yale University, and at Queen Square Hospital and Maudsley Hospital in London. He then practised psychological medicine in Toronto until 1940.

During the second world war he held important posts in the Canadian Army, including that of director-general of Medical Services. The World Health Organization Interim Commission appointed him executive secretary in 1946, and director-general of W.H.O. in 1948. In 1957-8 he was president of the World Federation for Mental Health. He was appointed C.B.E. in 1943 and a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1967.

Brock Chisholm was well known in the world of psychiatry. A friendly man, his quiet pronouncements on matters of the greatest concern to mankind were pungent and often provocative. In the course of a

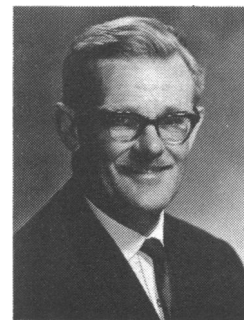
speech in Ottawa towards the end of the last war he said that peace could be assured only by "a new concept of the upbringing of children and teaching them in ways of compassion, tolerance and understanding the requirements of world citizenship."

W. H. H. MERIVALE

M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P., F.C.PATH.

Dr. W. H. H. Merivale, director of the department of clinical bacteriology and virology at Guy's Hospital, died on 10 February at the age of 53 as a result of a motor accident some three weeks previously.

Walter Herman Hodgson Merivale was born on 30 August 1917 and went as a day boy to Westminster School, where he was a classical scholar. Deciding to enter the medical profession after taking the London matriculation, he attended Borland's tutorial



school during his 18th year to learn the biology, physics, and chemistry needed for the first M.B. The lively intelligence and firm determination that were often later evident in his professional career, combined with the excellent teaching he received there, enabled him to master these unfamiliar subjects sufficiently to pass easily into St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School at the end of the year.

After qualifying with the Conjoint diploma in 1939 and obtaining a house appointment at Bournemouth he graduated in 1940 with honours in obstetrics and gynaecology. He was then called up for the Medical Branch of the R.A.F., but the examining board rejected him because of his poor eyesight. A spell in general practice as assistant to a doctor in the Thames Valley followed, while at the same time he studied for the M.R.C.P., which he took at the first attempt in 1942. Then after serving as junior assistant pathologist in the Emergency Medical Service he was put in charge of the Unit Laboratory at St. Thomas's Hospital. But Merivale was not one to stand on the sidelines in wartime, so without mentioning his rejection by the R.A.F. he volunteered to join the R.A.M.C., and to his delight was accepted. Taking part in the invasion of Normandy, he served as a graded specialist. His work there on blood transfusion for the wounded, of which he made a careful study, turned his attention to the whole question of fluid and electrolyte replacement, which he was to carry much further in later years. At the end of 1944 he was posted to India to take charge of

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laboratories successively at Jhansi and Meerut and was promoted to the rank of major.

After demobilization Merivale became clinical pathologist to the Newcastle General Hospital, from there being appointed in 1948 to the clinical pathology department of Guy's Hospital and succeeding to the directorship of it in 1955.

During his early years at Guy's his prime interest was in chemical pathology. He made important contributions to our understanding of the abnormalities of steroid metabolism and was a pioneer in the field of electrolyte replacement therapy, on which his advice was constantly sought by his clinical colleagues. In later years his interest became more concentrated on clinical microbiology, and indeed for the last three years, with the formal dissolution of the department of clinical pathology, he became director of the department of clinical bacteriology and virology. During these latter years he built up a successful clinical virology unit and was just starting a research project on the rapid determination of bacterial sensitivities to antibiotics, when his life was so tragically cut short. He also carried out the thankless task of hospital cross-infection officer with unflinching tact, common sense, and humour. A brilliant teacher, he had the rare ability to make the dull subject in pathology appear not only interesting but excruciatingly funny.

His friends at Guy's will always retain a warm and vivid memory of Walter Merivale. In particular they will remember his humour and kindness. Many people who worked in his department, whether for only a few weeks or for many years, can recall his personal interest and kindness to them in moments of difficulty.

Merivale was twice married, first to Irene Barris, by whom he had a son and a daughter, secondly to Josephine Vaughan-Morgan, by whom he had two sons.

D. S. writes: Though Merivale's career followed a common pattern of development, it did not in its familiar course reflect the real man. The only child of his parents, Merivale was an imaginative, dramatic, deeply unconventional person. Widely read in the ancient classics and English literature, a lover of music, opera, and the stage (where some of his relations have won distinction), he displayed in his thought and manner qualities that are usually antagonistic but in him were reconciled—deep sincerity of feeling and a histrionic delivery. To his profession he brought a fuller awareness of the human condition than doctors commonly possess, for a sensitive and outgoing nature combined with his wide cultural interests enabled him quickly to gain a sympathetic understanding of other people's troubles. Moreover, having himself suffered from the distraction of an easily upset temperament, he was particularly discerning and kind to anyone who quailed before life's problems.

Always humane in his judgements, how-

ever idiosyncratic they might be, Merivale was a man whose unique individuality broke more often through the usual professional reserve than was on occasions thought seemly. He was then apt to surprise or even embarrass colleagues and acquaintances, though himself unaware that he had said anything that could be thought outlandish. And though determined and conscientious he was the least solemn of people. Many a London theatre audience has turned in amazement at the hearty joy of his laughter.

Above average height and of rather heavy build, Walter Merivale had thick fair hair and projecting eyebrows that were the amusement of successive classes of students at Guy's. With his kindly, patrician courtesy he was, as a professional man, a loyal colleague and a sympathetic doctor bent on doing his best at the laboratory bench or the bedside. As a companion he was a lively stimulus to thought, both sane and ludicrous, on human affairs. As a friend Walter was—unforgettable.

E. H. L. COOK

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

Mr. E. H. L. Cook, consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the United Liverpool Hospitals, died on 4 February at the age of 55.

Edwin Harry Leonard Cook graduated at Liverpool University in 1940 and joined the R.A.F.V.R. after holding resident posts locally. One of his early postings was to 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron R.A.F., and his association with this squadron was to remain one of his most cherished memories. He completed his service in India, where his interest in the study of ophthalmology developed. Returning home he took the D.O.M.S. in 1947 and became senior registrar in what was then the Eye, Ear, and Throat Infirmary in Liverpool. Five years later he took the F.R.C.S. and became consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the Wigan, Leigh, and Wrightington group of hospitals and then to Bootle General Hospital and the Providence Hospital in St. Helens. He was appointed to the United Liverpool Hospitals in 1958 as consultant ophthalmic surgeon to St. Paul's Eye Hospital. At the time of his death he was senior consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board and the United Liverpool Hospitals, and was clinical lecturer in ophthalmology to the University of Liverpool. He was a member of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists of the Royal College of Surgeons and represented his region on the council of the faculty. He was also a member of the Ophthalmic Nursing Board and the North of England Ophthalmological Society.

His kindly and retiring personality, combined with skill in his specialty, made Ted Cook a delightful colleague. He loved the Shropshire countryside, and his cottage near Oswestry was a great joy to him. Here he

relaxed with his family, grew roses, fished, and made many friends, and here he spent what were probably some of his happiest days. His untimely death is a tragic loss to ophthalmology in the North-west. Such a man, who combined skill in his specialty with his own qualities of humility and stoic determination, we can ill afford to lose. He is survived by his wife and two sons, one of whom is a doctor, and by his daughter, who is in her final clinical year.—T.D.H.G.

O. M. HOLDEN

G.M., M.D., D.P.H.

Dr. O. M. Holden, formerly medical officer of health for Croydon, died on 5 January at the age of 85.

Oscar Madeley Holden was educated at the University of Birmingham, graduating M.B., B.Ch. in 1911 and proceeding M.D. in 1913. He took the D.P.H. in the same year. After posts in Birmingham, Southampton, and Swansea, he became M.O.H. first for Dewsbury and then for Blackburn. In 1927 he was appointed M.O.H., principal school medical officer, and superintendent of hospitals for Croydon, where he remained until his retirement in 1948.

In 1937 a major outbreak of typhoid in the borough brought unjustified adverse criticisms of Dr. Holden, but the findings of a public inquiry exonerated him from blame, and the lessons learned from the outbreak altered the techniques of water supply. During the second world war when Croydon was heavily bombed, he displayed exceptional courage as Civil Defence medical officer and was awarded the George Medal.

His major interest was probably the development of the municipal hospitals. He deprecated the National Health Service Act of 1946, which removed hospitals from local authority control, and timed his retirement to avoid involvement with the new service.

He is survived by his wife.—S.L.W.

D. W. WINNICOTT

M.A., F.R.C.P.

B. W. writes: Dr. Winnicott founded the children's department of the Clinic of Psycho-Analysis in the early 1930s and was appointed physician in charge. He was able to find cases suitable for psychoanalytic treatment in his clinic at Paddington Green Children's Hospital. During the war some children were psychoanalysed, and afterwards the number greatly increased and also the number of psychoanalysts in training. Dr. Winnicott then raised funds to build a larger clinic suitable for the purpose. This was opened in 1960, when he ceased to be physician in charge but became the consulting physician and continued increasingly to teach and supervise the psychoanalysis of children.