

conditions as a dustman for himself. Other occupations were gardening, cooking (he was an expert), and learning Italian.

He was married for nearly 52 years and is survived by his wife Ursula, a son, a daughter, and grandchildren.—OC-S, BJP.

JGB writes: John Currie was a friend of nearly 50 years' standing, and we were students and housemen together. He was essentially an intellectual, a lover of the arts, particularly music (*Tosca* was an enduring passion), and with a taste for sport and adventure. He took part enthusiastically in every activity that came his way, especially those spiced with an element of risk: fox-hunting while he was yet a relatively inexperienced horseman; later, gliding; and in recent years sailing and sub-aqua sports. Courage was the quality he most admired. There was no reason for him to doubt his own store of it, yet from time to time he seemed to feel a need to put it to the test. In speech he was direct, brief, and to the point. Humbug and falsity he despised, and pomposity was laughable. The story went that at interview for acceptance at medical school he was regaled with an impressive list of fine athletes and their achievements, blues from the universities who were students there. He heard it out, no doubt with that well-known Currie look of disdain, reminiscent of a somewhat pained bloodhound, then came back with, "And what about brains?" He was a quiet, gentle man with a strong sense of duty and of humour. How sad it is that we shall never again hear his laughter.

W MORISON

MB, CHB, MRCGP

Dr William Morison, a general practitioner at Birmingham for over 50 years, died in hospital after major surgery on 14 January. He was 76.

William Morison was born at Wishaw, Scotland, in 1901. He went from Wishaw High School to Glasgow University before his 16th birthday. When he passed his finals he had to wait a month till after his twenty-first birthday before he could graduate in 1922. He went to Small Heath, Birmingham, as an assistant in general practice, intending to return to his teaching hospital for further study, but instead found general practice satisfying. He remained in Small Heath till his marriage in 1930, when he started a practice on a new municipal estate at Northfield. When he retired in 1973 he had four partners. During the war years he commanded a mobile ambulance in Civil Defence.

After the war he became interested in medical politics. He served 10 years as secretary of the south-west suburban ward of the Birmingham General Medical Practitioners Union; 20 years on the local medical committee; and many years on the Birmingham Executive Council. He was vice-chairman of the finance and general purposes committee of the executive council and served as their representative on the local consultants committee, where his mature opinion was much appreciated. He was interested in teaching students and during the years had many attached to the practice. He was a member of

the BMA throughout his professional life and also became a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He was active in the inauguration of the Northfield Health Centre when health centres were not so common as now. His quiet, sympathetic nature endeared him to his patients. After his retirement he did sessional work for the local authority as well as for the limb-fitting centre of the Ministry of Health. Willie was very much interested in his garden and spent a good deal of his time at his bungalow on the Gower peninsula. He is survived by his wife Eileen and two sons, one of whom is in general practice.—J&BSW.

AMN writes: During the long years Dr Morison worked in the south-west district of Birmingham he won the respect and affection not only of his patients, who received from him exemplary pastoral care, but also of his professional colleagues. His scrupulous integrity and willingness to co-operate were responsible in great measure for the enviable relationship between individual GPs and in their dealings with the district hospital. He was also a staunch supporter of the postgraduate centre at Selly Oak Hospital.

R S GIBSON

MB, CHB, DPH

Dr R S Gibson, who was in practice at Salisbury, Rhodesia, has died. He was 58.

Robert Smith Gibson was born at Glasgow on 21 January 1919 and educated at Merchiston Castle School and Glasgow University, where he graduated in medicine in 1942. After house jobs at the Royal and Western infirmaries at Glasgow he joined the RAMC. He served with the 81st West African Division and saw active service in Burma, being mentioned in dispatches and reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel. After hospital posts in Scotland he went to Southern Rhodesia in 1948 and joined the Government Medical Service, in which he spent four years in outlying stations. In 1953 he took the DPH in London. After three more years in Government service he joined a general practice at Bulawayo. He gave devoted service to his patients for 21 years until progressive illness forced him to give up the work he loved two months before his death.

For many years he was an active member of the BMA and later of the Rhodesian Medical Association. With a number of colleagues he was instrumental in launching the College of General Practitioners of Rhodesia in 1976, and he was elected its first president. Dr Gibson is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.—WFR.

J L BLONSTEIN

OBE, MRCS, LRCP, DIH

Dr J L Blonstein, who was in general practice at Wandsworth, London, for 50 years, died on 1 February. He was 75.

Joseph Lewis Blonstein was born in London in 1902 and educated at University College School and University College. He qualified in 1926 and went into general practice at

Battersea, taking a special interest in medico-legal work. In 1959 he took the diploma in industrial health and was elected a fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. In 1975 he was appointed OBE for his many contributions to sport. He was welterweight champion of United Hospitals in 1924-5 and 1925-6. He was senior medical officer of the European Amateur Boxing Association and the Amateur International Boxing Association, and also of the English Amateur Boxing Association. Since 1948 he had acted as senior medical officer at Olympic and Commonwealth games. He was chairman and medical officer of the Surrey Squash Racquets Association. For 13 years he was an active amateur footballer and squash player, and was also umpire at the All-England Lawn Tennis Association Championships. He was a life member of the British Association of Sport and Medicine. His book *Boxing Doctor* was published in 1965. He also wrote numerous articles on boxing and other sports which were published in medical journals. In 1965 he was made a freeman of the City of London.

Dr Blonstein served the community as a general practitioner in Wandsworth with dedication and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Lily and by his son, who will carry on the practice.

F S CARTER

MD, FRCP, DCH

BPH writes: Stephen Carter (obituary 24 December, p 1676), whose career in the Colonial Medical Service began in Kenya, was in Nairobi in 1951 at the time of the opening of the King George VI Hospital, now known as the Kenyatta National Hospital. He was an able paediatrician and valuable member of the team of consultants that we were able to assemble from Government MOs and from private-practice consultants in Nairobi. Although Nairobi did not have a medical school in 1951, we had newly qualified doctors from Britain who came as interns and stayed to join the service, and there was a liaison with the MRC team in Kampala interested in kwashiorkor. It was regrettable therefore that there was no appointment for a paediatrician on the staff of our premier African hospital in Nairobi at that time. However, Stephen Carter was a pleasant man and voiced no grievance. He was struck by diabetes but did not let it hamper his career. Since living in Jersey, he enjoyed travelling on the Continent for summer holidays, where, I understand, a year or two ago he suffered a severe accident. It is sad to learn of his untimely death.

Correction

Dr M S Dewhurst

We regret that an error occurred in the obituary of Dr M S Dewhurst (28 January, p 249). The opening paragraph should have stated that Dr Dewhurst was in general practice at Havant, Hampshire, for 35 years and that he died in the Isle of Wight.