

Lancashire, and, despite protests from some of his colleagues that he was "selling the pass," agreement was eventually reached by all concerned and the scheme proved to be entirely satisfactory. Vincent was a staunch friend, and even during his long illness was always optimistic. His widow, Mildred, to whom our sympathy goes, is also medically qualified, and is a daughter of the late Dr. W. T. Clegg, a well-known Liverpool ophthalmic surgeon: his brother is a radiologist. Many will remember with affection the warm hospitality of Mowbray Lodge with its delightful occupants, including many friendly dogs.

S. C. G. writes: The death of Vincent Thierens removes from the public-health world one of its prominent members and a colourful personality. It was not in Blackburn alone, however, that he was liked and respected; he was a popular figure among people in all walks of life in Lancashire, and nowhere more than among his colleagues in the public health service. He believed firmly in the importance of the contribution which preventive medicine had to offer, and worked hard to secure a proper emphasis in the preventive service in the developments which followed upon the inception of the National Health Service. His membership of many advisory and co-ordinating committees was an indication of the esteem in which his counsel was held: but he possessed also personal qualities which ensured for him attention and respect.

In day-to-day problems Thierens believed in the personal approach and in the importance of mutual regard and understanding. He was direct and outspoken, but kindly and sincere, and he greatly valued in others that courtesy which he himself invariably displayed. Despite a considerable degree of deafness, he was a most sociable person and loved meeting people. A witty raconteur, he had a great sense of humour and was never short of an amusing story. One was always happy to see him, and he left one feeling the better for having met him. When, towards the end of his active career, illness overtook him, his friends were saddened and dismayed. The courage with which he faced up to the prospect of formidable operative procedures, and his wonderful recuperative powers, gave many cause to hope that he might yet enjoy the long and active retirement which he had so richly merited. It was not to be. Throughout a long and distressing illness, supported constantly by his wife, to whom he was devoted, he displayed the utmost fortitude. The profession mourns the passing of a greatly respected colleague, and sympathy goes out to his widow, Dr. Mildred Thierens, in her irreparable loss.

#### NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H.

Dr. Norman Macfadyen, the first resident doctor in Letchworth, and the town's first medical officer of health, died at the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, on June 5. He was 82 years of age.

Norman Macfadyen was born in Manchester on May 21, 1877, the son of a distinguished Congregational minister. He received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1902. He took the London M.B. in 1904 and the Cambridge D.P.H. in the following year. After qualification he held the appointments of house-physician and extern midwifery assistant at St. Bartholomew's and assistant medical officer at the London Temperance Hospital. He then settled in practice at Letchworth, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was chairman of the executive committee of the Town and Country Planning Association from 1929 to 1944, and in 1945 became the fourth recipient of the Howard memorial medal awarded by that association. He was also chairman of the East Hertfordshire Division of the British Medical Association from 1924 to 1927.

We are indebted to Dr. C. P. CRAGGS for the following appreciation:

Dr. Norman Macfadyen, senior partner and founder of the first practice in Letchworth, the first garden city, died

on June 5 following an accidental fall on May 13 which caused a fracture of the neck of his left femur. A kindly and yet forceful man, he and his wife Gertrude made Letchworth their enthusiastic hobby: indeed, being childless, everyone thought of Letchworth as the offspring of the Macfadyens. His wife, who predeceased him in August, 1958, gave striking evidence of this by her gift to the town of nearly £30,000. Notwithstanding this most generous gift, Dr. Macfadyen left almost his entire estate to the Letchworth Civic Trust, which can thus benefit worthy causes in the town and help people in need. After leaving St. Bartholomew's Hospital Dr. Macfadyen came under the influence of Sir Ebenezer Howard, and was one of the first householders in the new garden city at Letchworth, when every visit was difficult owing to primitive road conditions. By the end of 1911 he had been joined not only by Dr. H. D. Ledward (in 1906) but also by Dr. P. F. Wilson, both from St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was largely owing to the energetic drive of Dr. Macfadyen that Letchworth Hospital was built, and he was, from first to last, medical officer of Letchworth and North Hertfordshire Isolation Hospital, where he successfully treated thousands of children suffering from diphtheria and scarlet fever in the days before prophylaxis and antibiotics were in common use. Both his partners volunteered for active service in the first world war, so that he was left to hold the fort in this quickly growing town as best he might.

I first met Dr. and Mrs. Macfadyen in 1927, and it was their charm and enthusiasm which caused me to decide to settle in Letchworth. "Ours is a very interesting and comprehensive practice, with a small general hospital, an isolation hospital, a tuberculosis dispensary and school medical service, in addition to the routine work." These were Dr. Macfadyen's written words to me when replying to my letter of application to join the practice. I soon found them to be very true, thus making the life of a small-town family doctor one of great interest and variety. We were a large partnership of six. Later we separated from the partners in the neighbouring town of Baldock, but continued to remain in close friendship. I can now look back on over thirty years of friendship and comradeship with my late senior partner, who never failed to give us excellent advice and real guidance in all our problems. His work for the Letchworth Urban District Council, of which he was chairman for many years, was self-sacrificing and distinguished. He was a director of the First Garden City, Ltd., and he gave his services freely to all the young people's and sports organizations. His greatest joy was to be among children, and he and his wife regularly visited all the schools of a wide area. He and his wife loved Letchworth, and gave their all to its service, both during and after their lives. They will not be forgotten; their monument, not of stone, will help the future of their town. As one of his colleagues said, "Never has one man done so much for so little reward."

#### ADAM MOSS, M.D.

Dr. Adam Moss, who was in general practice at West Kirby, Cheshire, for very many years, died at Firgrove, Cape Province, South Africa, on September 22. He was 90 years of age.

Adam Moss was born on October 21, 1868, and was educated at the old Queen's College, Belfast, graduating M.B., B.Ch. from the former Royal University of Ireland in 1892. He proceeded to the M.D. in 1905. While at the District Lunatic Asylum at Belfast he gained the first prize in mental diseases and the Malcolm exhibition at the Royal Hospital. He first entered general practice at Tyldesley and Boothstown, Lancashire, in 1893, but left there two years later for West Kirby. His initial stay at West Kirby was of short duration, for in 1897 he went to South Africa to take up an appointment as district surgeon at Ladismith, in the Cape Province. In 1901 he returned to West Kirby and to general practice and remained there until 1953,