

OBITUARY

MARJORIE H BRAINE

MB, BS, MMSA, DPH, DTM&H

Dr Marjorie Braine, who was formerly in the Malayan Medical Service, died on 25 September as the result of an accident. She was 78.

Marjorie Haughton James was born in 1901 in Assam, where her father was an officer in a Gurkha regiment. After qualifying at the Royal Free Hospital she was in general practice for some time near Melton Mowbray, and also worked in the Derby Children's Hospital and the Royal East Sussex Hospital. Between 1933 and 1936 she worked in the Birmingham public health department, holding posts in maternity and child welfare. In 1936 she joined the Malayan Medical Service, and after some maternity and child welfare work in the State of Perak was put in charge of the Women's Hospital at Kuala Kangsar. She cared for all and sundry, from the ladies of the royal household to the aborigines. She loved trips into the jungle and was one of the only two European women who up to that time had visited the remote village of Belum, several days' journey away from the nearest road.

In 1939 she married her colleague, Hector Braine, who was in charge of the Men's Hospital and who had first spoken to her while assisting her to perform a caesarean section in the middle of the night. When war broke out in the Far East she left with her first child in one of the last boats to succeed in leaving Singapore. She stayed firstly at her sister's farm in the Kenyan highlands, where at once she undertook voluntary work, often having to go out at night with an old house-boy, a hurricane lamp, and her faithful bull terrier to scare off wild beasts. After the birth of her second daughter, Marjorie was invited to joint the Kenyan Medical Service and was appointed medical officer at Eldoret and Nakuru. Here she shared the work with another doctor in a hospital nominally with 250 beds but usually with another 250 living under the beds awaiting their turn. After the war she returned to Malaya and resumed her post at Kuala Kangsar. Her last post in Malaya was that of lady medical officer in the State of Kelantan, where her husband was chief medical officer. Here there was one doctor for 80 000 of the population, and on one occasion she personally examined and prescribed for well over 600 patients in one day. Marjorie was largely instrumental in restoring the St John Ambulance Brigade in Kelantan.

In 1949 Marjorie and Hector retired from Malaya and entered general practice at Wolverhampton, but she soon found congenial employment as a school medical officer, and in fact continued to work in an occasional capacity until shortly before her death. Marjorie will be remembered by her many friends and colleagues in the West Midlands, not only because she was an outstanding all-round doctor but above all for her friendly and generous personality. Marjorie never spoke ill of anyone, and no one ever spoke ill of Marjorie. She was a fine example of a quiet

woman with ability in all types of medicine, who did it all and never mentioned it to anyone. She is survived by her husband and two married daughters, one of whom is a doctor in the West Country.—FNG.

A N SARGANT

MRCs, LRCP

Dr Alexander Sargant, who was formerly in general practice at Southampton, died in a car accident on 26 September. He was 57.

Alexander Newman Sargant was born at Wandsworth on 21 June 1922. During the second world war he served from 1941 to 1946 as a wireless mechanic in the RAF. He then studied medicine at St Thomas's Hospital, qualified in 1955, and held posts at Maidenhead General, Miller General, and the Middlesborough Maternity hospitals. He became a trainee in general practice in south-east London and then, from 1958 to 1960, was an assistant at Bedford. In 1960 he came to Southampton and started a new singlehanded practice, which grew steadily over the years and in which he was highly regarded by his patients. In 1974 he left the practice and joined the staff of the Student Health Service at Southampton University, where he remained until his death.

To many people Alec Sargant was known as a painter as well as a doctor. He began the hobby during his war service in Italy, and in time developed his talent to such an extent that in 1973 he was offered a full-time scholarship for six months. This he had to turn down. His paintings were exhibited in international shows in London, and his frequent one-man exhibitions at Southampton and Winchester will be greatly missed. He started painting in oils, but in recent years water colours became his main love. He was a competent bridge player and fond of classical music. Many of his friends did not realise that he was also a poet, and his skills at carpentry and landscape gardening were outstanding. This doctor and artist, who had such a keen sense of humour, will leave a gap in the lives of many in and beyond the city of Southampton. He is survived by his wife Ena and by a daughter and son.—JBS.

J C MACGOWN

DFC, MD

Dr John Macgown, formerly medical officer to British South American Airways, died on 8 September after a short illness. He was 83.

John Cecil Macgown was born on 10 March 1896 at Millport, Cumbrae, the son and grandson of doctors. He was educated at Bedford, where he represented the school at gymnastics and was a prominent member of the rugby fifteen. In 1914, when he was a first-year medical student, he joined the Scottish Horse, later transferring to the Royal Flying Corps. He fought in France as a pilot and was shot down and imprisoned at Holzminden in

Germany. Escaping first to Russia, he was sent back to Germany after the revolution. He then escaped to Holland. After the war he completed his studies at Edinburgh and became a house surgeon at the Royal Infirmary. He also played rugby for the university and for the Barbarians. For 15 years he practised in Hong Kong and learnt to speak Cantonese. He was chieftain of the Hong Kong St Andrews Society in 1935, when he returned to Britain.

He practised in Lincolnshire and in Wimpole Street until the outbreak of the second world war, when he rejoined the RAF. As medical officer to the Pathfinder squadrons he became interested in ophthalmic work, doing much on the understanding and development of night vision. He flew on 47 combat operations over Germany, partly to note accuracy over targets. He also made a point of flying with crews who had previously had a bad trip: they all reckoned that as he had survived two wars he must be lucky. He was awarded the DFC at this time. Towards the end of the war he lobbied heads of industry to employ ex-Pathfinders and an office was opened in London. This was the beginning of the Pathfinder Association, of which he was the first president.

After the war he was medical officer to British South American Airways and flew many times to South American airports to inspect and advise. He was a member of the Guild of Air Pilots and a freeman of the City of London. In 1952 he retired to a hill farm on the Isle of Islay, but still did locums for the Islay doctors and some ophthalmic work. He served on Argyll County Council as chairman of the health and welfare committee, but after 14 years increasing deafness made him give this up. Dr Macgown is survived by his wife, who was formerly a nursing sister, and by two sons and a daughter.

MURIEL M EDWARDS

BSC, MB, CHB

Dr Muriel Edwards, who was formerly in general practice at Wythenshawe, Manchester, died on 1 October at the age of 76.

Muriel Mary Edwards was born in 1903 and educated at Manchester High School and Manchester Medical School. After graduating in 1927 she did several house jobs, and in 1934 started general practice at Wythenshawe, which was then a new housing estate south of Manchester. She was the first woman to practise on the estate. The practice quickly thrived, so that in 1937 she was able to take a partner and in 1952 a further partner. She retired from general practice in 1966 and for the next 10 years worked part time for the local authority and as a police surgeon.

Muriel Edwards was a Quaker, and her faith enabled her to give more than medical care to her patients and to everyone with whom she came into contact. She did an enormous amount of work for the local community, being instrumental in helping to start a Friends' Meeting, a local community

association, and many other organisations, but above all she cared for the individual. During the war she worked untiringly for refugees, taking four children into her home and helping and supporting countless others. Many of those she helped eventually emigrated but kept in touch with her and visited her frequently. After the war she became interested in Belra (now Lepra) and joined a local branch, of which she was president for many years. She gathered together and inspired a team of helpers who made the Wythenshawe branch of Lepra a most effective organisation. Muriel was loved by all who knew her. About 250 people crowded into the meeting house for her memorial service, which was conducted in the Quaker manner, and many tributes were paid to her by former patients, medical colleagues, worshippers at the Society of Friends, and fellow workers in Lepra.—WH, JCL.

M S ROWLEY

MB, CHB, MFCM, DPH

Dr M S Rowley, formerly medical officer of health at Ormskirk, Lancashire, died suddenly on 28 October at his home at Exmouth, Devon. He was 63.

Maurice Stanley Rowley was educated at Bolton School, Manchester University, and Manchester Royal Infirmary. He graduated in medicine in 1939, and after serving as a house officer he went to Winsley Sanatorium, Bath, for further experience. At the outbreak of the second world war he volunteered for medical service in the RAF and was posted to India as a squadron leader. At the end of the war he spent some time at the RAF station at Market Drayton before returning to Bolton to enter general practice. Shortly afterwards he went to Manchester University again to take the diploma in public health.

Dr Rowley had a large and busy practice at Bolton and was much esteemed by his patients for his kindly understanding and conscientious treatment of them. He was also medical officer for some of the mills at Bolton. A few years ago he took up an appointment as medical officer of health at Ormskirk and became a member of the Faculty of Community Medicine. In 1975 he retired from Ormskirk and went to live at Exmouth, where he developed a keen interest in his large garden and was able to play his much prized piano. He was twice married. By his first wife, who died at an early age, he had a son and daughter, who are both married. He married again and had another daughter. His second wife, Veronica, and small daughter live in the pleasant home they made together at Exmouth.

N R POOLER

MB, BS, MRCP

Dr N R Pooler, formerly physician and lecturer in the medical school of the University of Natal, died at his home in Alderney, Channel Islands, on 21 September. He was 76.

Noel Richard Pooler was born in Birmingham on 4 April 1903. His father was in general practice and three of his brothers became doctors too. Educated at King Edward's, Birmingham, and later at St Mary's Hospital, he qualified in 1926. He joined his father's practice, took the MRCP in 1936, and was appointed visiting physician to the Royal Infirmary, Chesterfield. As a Territorial, he

was called up at the outbreak of the second world war. With his experience as a physician he was made a medical specialist in 1940, and two years later he was put in charge of a medical division with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He later went to the Middle East and India, where he became adviser in medicine, Central Command. After demobilisation he worked at St Mary's Hospital in the Wright Fleming Department and married Marjorie, who also comes from a medical family.

In 1947 he joined a doctor in South Africa as a partner. In 1949 he became visiting physician to Addington and King Edward VIII hospitals in Durban, later becoming senior visiting physician. In 1964 he relinquished general practice and became physician and lecturer in the medical school of the University of Natal and also examiner in medicine. He was greatly interested in medical politics and became president of the Natal Coastal Branch of the Medical Association of South Africa and a member of the federal council of the association. In 1967 he was president of the association on the occasion of its Durban meeting. He retired in 1969 and came to live in Alderney. Dr Pooler is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.—WGT.

L COLLINS

MB, BS

Dr Leonard Collins, founder of the GP Relief Service, died on 21 October after a long illness. He was 53.

Leonard Collins studied medicine at Charing Cross Hospital and graduated in 1954. He became a trainee general practitioner in north London, after which he took the opportunity to offer his services as a deputy to local colleagues to cover their night calls. From this in 1956 developed the deputising service that was to serve over 1000 general practitioners in north-east London and peripheral areas and supply locums to family practitioner committees and casualty departments in emergencies. In the early days he faced much prejudice and antagonism and had to overcome many problems in building up the reputable organisation the service became. Meanwhile he eked out a precarious living as medical officer to the British Boxing Board of Control and as a police surgeon. Always anxious to improve his standards, he readily agreed to the suggestion of some of his subscribers to set up a medical advisory committee, and in 1958 his committee began to function, and did so with much success until it was disbanded in 1978. His advice and help were always available, and early on he encouraged two of his deputies to set up what became Central Relief Service and Southern Relief Service.

At the time of the collapse of the Emergency Call Service he was responsible for the formation of the National Association of Medical Emergency Services, of which he became secretary. This subsequently became the Medical Directors Association. In 1968, when Central Relief Service was in danger of collapse, he helped to restore it to a fully functioning unit. Soon after this he began to show evidence of his illness, and he accepted an offer from Air Call to incorporate his service, with him remaining as senior executive. He was proud that his service never had a substantiated complaint before any family practitioner committee during its existence. He knew and was on friendly terms with all his staff, and was grateful to them for their loyalty and

devotion during times of stress. Dr Collins is survived by his wife Franca and his four children.—SS.

J E NEWTON

MB, CHB, FRCGP

Dr Jack Newton, who was in general practice at Stroud, Gloucestershire, for 40 years, died on 11 November at the age of 75.

John Ernest Newton was born in north London on 20 October 1904 and educated at



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Blundell's School. He received his medical training at Bristol Royal Infirmary and qualified in 1929. After house posts at Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, where he was house surgeon in ENT, he became resident surgical officer at the Royal Surrey County Hospital

at Guildford. He then spent three years as non-resident casualty officer at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, before entering general practice in 1935 at Stroud, where he spent the rest of his professional life. He was a member of the staff of Stroud Hospital from 1938, subsequently specialising in ENT as a clinical assistant from 1948 to 1969. He was chairman of the medical staff committee for this period and also a member of the Gloucester, Stroud, and Forest hospital management committee for nine years and a member of the local medical committee for six.

Dr Newton retired from his hospital sessions in 1969 but continued to work in general practice until 1974. Even after that he still acted as locum in casualty at Stroud Hospital until three weeks before his death. This year he was elected to the fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners. The energy he devoted to his work was also channelled into other interests, particularly gardening, art appreciation, walking, and travel. He will be remembered by his friends and colleagues for his wisdom, patience, and generous help and advice whenever they were in difficulty. He is survived by his wife Jess; by his son, who is also a doctor; and by three grandchildren.—RWL.

A J MACLEOD

OBE, MB, CHB, FRCGP

KML writes from Vancouver, BC: The obituary of Dr A J Macleod (29 September, p 804) brings back many fond memories to this alumnus of the Lochmaddy School of Postgraduate Medicine, where the tutelage of Zadok was the main attraction and the whole syllabus. "A big man?" Yes, indeed. Who else could carry out manual dilatation of the pelvis (reported in the *BMJ* soon after his arrival in Lochmaddy)? A great storyteller, one in the bardic tradition, as countless dying peat embers at two and three o'clock in the morning could attest and his listener still eager for more. This was a man, my masters. We graduates of his school are proud to have sat at his feet.