

OBITUARY

R C BROWNE

MA, DM, FRCP

Professor Richard Browne, emeritus professor of industrial health in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, died on 3 March after a brief illness. He was 68.

Richard Charles Browne was born on 6 July 1911 at Bristol, where his father was a general practitioner. From school at Clifton he went to a distinguished undergraduate career at Wadham College, Oxford, and Bristol Medical School. Returning to Oxford, he worked with Professor L J Wits as registrar, then moved to Cambridge as a research specialist



in the RAF medical department. His interest in ergonomics encouraged him to apply for the newly instituted chair of industrial health in the then University of Durham Medical School at Newcastle upon Tyne, one of three such departments founded in 1945 by the Nuffield Foundation. Defining industrial health as the reciprocal relationship between job, home, and health, he established an interdisciplinary department that linked the university, the faculty of medicine, and local industry. In all these areas he was adept at anticipating future trends and planning ahead carefully. In the university he successfully piloted the senior common room into enlarged premises as its chairman, thereby fostering better integration of all the faculties. Into the Newcastle medical faculty he brought a number of innovations in advance of other departments. He introduced medical statistics, now a separate department with its own chair, and pulmonary physiology and occupational hygiene, from both of which have come contributions to research, teaching in the university, and a service to industry and the people of the north-east of England.

His research covered a wide range of problems, including ergonomics, pneumoconiosis, and nystagmus in coal miners, vanadium poisoning, acid decalcification of teeth, and shipyard accidents. Latterly he conducted a major survey of sports injuries in the North of England for the Sports Council. From the earliest days he used local industry as his source of field work, as the inspiration for his two books on occupational medicine, and to enhance the quality of departmental teaching for medical and engineering students. In the 1960s he initiated and built up the North of England Industrial Health Service, which ran in parallel with his department and took some of the pressure from it, as well as providing occupational hygiene and medical services to local firms. Meanwhile his closest personal contact with industry was through his consultant and committee work with the electricity

boards, which continued after his retirement.

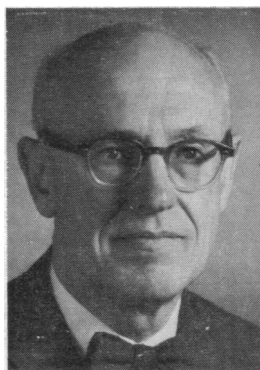
Although some on superficial acquaintance may have thought him a little pedantic, or on occasion brusque, he was in fact a delightful person to work for, well liked by his colleagues and all who came into close contact with him. It was his policy to be readily accessible to all members of his staff and to encourage and support them. He enjoyed both travel and being at home. Although he eschewed the aeroplane as far as possible, his expertise was much in demand, and he visited widely in Africa, Europe, and Turkey, both on business and on holiday. At home he delighted in his family, his garden, and the seventh-century church in his village of Corbridge upon Tyne, where he will be sadly missed. He is survived by his wife Barbara, a son, and three daughters. His work and the affection felt for him by his colleagues will live after him.—RIMcC.

F J INGELFINGER

MD

Dr Franz Ingelfinger, who was editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* from 1967 to 1977, died on 26 March at the age of 69.

Franz Joseph Ingelfinger was born at Dresden, Germany, on 20 August 1910. His father was a German doctor and his mother an American school-teacher. Franz was taken to America at the age of 12, became naturalised there in 1931, and took an arts degree at Yale in 1932. He began to help with his mother's English students, but soon decided to study



medicine. In 1936 he graduated MD at Harvard Medical School, and as there were only two practising gastroenterologists at Boston at that time he determined to become one himself. He trained at Philadelphia and was soon concerned with the problems of intestinal motility and absorption. In 1940, four years after he had qualified, he became chief of gastroenterology at the Evans Memorial Hospital, Boston. With his associates Kramer and Bradley, and many trainees, he embarked on a long career as a clinical gastroenterologist and also did much research, including the investigation of the occurrence of megaloblastic anaemia after total gastrectomy.

He married Sarah Shurcliff in 1941 and they had a son and daughter. In 1961 he became director of medical services at Boston City Hospital and created a most successful teaching unit. He also became a member of the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In 1967, when he was 57, he succeeded Dr Joseph Garland as editor of that journal, which has been in continuous

existence longer than any other medical periodical and preserved its excellence throughout its long life. Ingelfinger acquired the necessary business knowledge very quickly, had a good memory for detail, and set out to enlarge the scope of his journal. He also applied more stringent criteria to papers submitted for publication, and if medical data had already appeared substantially in the lay press the paper would be rejected. The ten years of his editorship were years of continuing success for the *New England Journal of Medicine*. A noticeable change was the development of its correspondence columns into a forum for vigorous debate. He was willing to publish outspoken articles on politically sensitive topics and made a courageous attack on laetrile, the quack cure for cancer.

In 1975 he found himself gravely ill and was successfully operated on for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus. In 1977 he retired from his post as editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and was succeeded by Dr Arnold S Relman. In spite of the disabling effects of his radiation treatment, Ingelfinger continued bravely to lecture and write. He was also part-time consultant at the Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, and served as a physician at the Bedford (Massachusetts) Veterans Administration Hospital.

S M REID

MA, MB, CHB, FRCOG

GAHB writes: Stanley Reid (obituary, 1 March, p 659) was one of the most charming and efficient officers in the blood transfusion service in the Middle East Force and Central Mediterranean Force. He was always ready to help and never complained. One of the most energetic and able doctors, he did a great deal towards the success of the transfusion service, sometimes under the most difficult conditions. It was a great pleasure to see him in Saudi Arabia for two or three months last year. His presence was always a delight, and our colleagues at the King Faisal Hospital were most appreciative of his excellent work.

VETHANAYAKAM VELUMYLUM

MB, BS, DTM&H

EGD writes: During the time that Dr Velumylum (obituary, 15 March, p 803) worked in our group of hospitals she tackled a notoriously difficult specialty with unusual ability and enthusiasm. She was a most intelligent and delightful person and one who had the faculty of making friends with all grades of staff. We were all shocked and saddened by her sudden death and she will be very sadly missed by her colleagues.

A memorial service for the late Sir Ludwig Guttmann (obituary, 5 April, p 1021) will be held at the Sports Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on Wednesday 23 April, at 2.30 pm.