

B J Smits

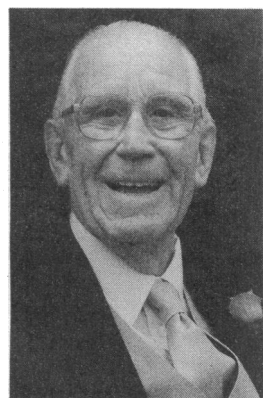
B J SMITS FRCP

Bernard Smits was appointed consultant physician to Coventry and Nuneaton in 1967. His strong personality and abundant energy—characteristics that diminished little over the next 25 years—were rapidly directed at further extending the many developments that were then taking place in the district. He played a major part in building up gastroenterological units at both centres as well as sharing a heavy general commitment. An active member of many professional societies, he was well known nationally and overseas for his contributions to training and research in gastroenterology and nutrition. Good at and enjoying administration, he was a formidable proponent of his often strongly held views. Chairmanship of many local and regional committees and the organisation of large professional meetings were a natural consequence.

Bernard came of a Dutch Catholic family who had settled in Essex, and his enthusiasm was matched by practical compassion grounded in his faith. His pioneering work in the medical care of sick pilgrims led to his becoming the first chairman of the Lourdes Medical Association and being made a knight of St Gregory.

Bernard died of a head injury after falling from a ladder in his garden while putting up Christmas lights. He is survived by his wife, Pat; their family, Ben, James, and Sophie; and by Helen and John, his daughter and son by his first marriage.—E R WILLIAMS, J HOWELL JONES

Bernard John Smits, a consultant physician (gastroenterology) to Coventry and Nuneaton hospitals since 1967, died 22 December. Born 3 August 1929; educated St Ignatius College, London, and Charing Cross Hospital (MB, BS 1955). National service in Royal Army Medical Corps. Registrar in Warwick; research fellow and senior registrar at Birmingham General Hospital 1963-7.



J R Kyles

J R KYLES FFARCS

Appointed the first consultant anaesthetist in Fife, Jimmy Kyles had to organise and improve the anaesthetic service in this large and diverse area with scattered cottage, maternity, and general hospitals. This he did with great energy and enthusiasm, laying the foundations of the present anaesthetic department. The development of the new district general hospital for east Fife, the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, in the 1960s, owed much to his foresight and innovative ideas. He brought the first electronic patient ventilator in Scotland to Kirkcaldy, piloted an early central sterile supply service, and introduced a staff bleep system.

His clinical interests included epidural anaesthesia, for which he developed the Kyles modification of the Wagner needle. After conducting much of the early work on the use of diazepam in anaesthesia he studied the muscle relaxant alcuronium. He inaugurated an educational programme for the anaesthetic technicians and set up, and organised singlehandedly for many years, the hospital medical library. As a qualified dentist, he occasionally obliged if his patient had a tooth requiring extraction. His contributions to his specialty were recognised by his election to the presidencies of the Scottish Society of Anaesthetists and the Edinburgh Association of Anaesthetists and membership of higher national committees.

Jimmy Kyles was a distinguished rugby player in the prewar and postwar period, playing wing forward for the formidable Stewarts Former Pupils team. Later he enjoyed golf and was a member of the Royal and Ancient. He is survived by his wife, Mimi, and by three daughters and three grandchildren.—R A BOWIE

James Robert Kyles, a consultant anaesthetist to East Fife hospitals 1950-81, died 26 December. Born Edinburgh, 10 October 1916; educated Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh University (LDS RCSEd 1940; LRCP&SEd, LRFPSGlas 1942). Served in Royal Army Medical Corps 1942-6 in Normandy and Palestine. Senior registrar in anaesthesia, Bangour Hospital.

R G MACBETH DM, FRCS, FRCSED

Ronald Macbeth was appointed to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, as its first consultant specialising entirely in otolaryngology in 1937 and became director of the department during a period of tremendous expansion. The department soon became recognised as a centre of excellence internationally. Ronald's important work on the larynx, frontal sinuses, and adenocarcinoma in woodworkers (in association with the late Miss Esme Hadfield) brought him recognition in many countries.

He served various organisations wisely and conscientiously. He was honorary secretary of the section of laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine and later its vice president (1947-50) and was president of the section of otology (1959-60); he served on the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and as vice president 1963-4; and he examined in otolaryngology for the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh, England, and Ireland. In Oxford he served as a member of the board of governors of the united Oxford hospitals and was university member of the city council (1965-74) as well as being county commissioner of the St John Ambulance Association. He was one of a small group of enthusiasts who established the British academic conference in otolaryngology.

Ronald and his first wife, Margaret, to whom he was married for more than 50 years, had three daughters and two sons (one a consultant in Glasgow). After Margaret's death he married Mrs Audrey Pilkington-Jackson, who also survives him; the two families had known each other for many years.—B H COLMAN

Ronald Graeme Macbeth, formerly director of the department of otolaryngology at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, died 15 December aged 89. Studied medicine at Oriel College, Oxford, and King's College Hospital (MRCS, LRCP 1928; BM, BCh 1930).

J P HOLLAND MB, CHB, DCH, DRCOG

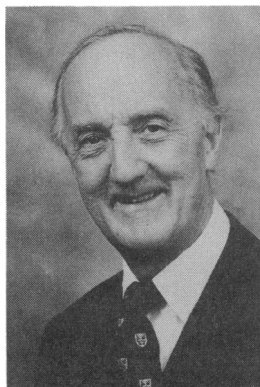
Jenny Holland didn't enjoy hospital medicine, and although at first she worked as a clinical medical officer in Atherton because it fitted in well with family life, she quickly realised that the work suited her and that she could do it well. For the past six years she had been working in community child health in Somerset. Jenny was quiet but also had a steely determination and often astonished people who unwisely thought that she might be easily persuaded to their way of thinking. She read widely on subjects connected with work.

Most of Jenny's interests outside work were centred on her family. Together they enjoyed the countryside and going for walks. She was a committed Catholic.

During her last six months she was determined to carry on working, which she did till six weeks before she died. She is survived by her husband, Trevor Hunt, and her three children, John, Theresa, and Laura.—

SARAH KELLY

Jennifer Patricia Holland, a senior clinical medical officer with Somerset Health Authority, died 10 January aged 39. Born 26 October 1953; educated Sacred Heart Convent, Weymouth, and Leeds University (MB, ChB 1977). Clinical medical officer in Atherton.



C K Elliott

C K ELLIOTT

MRCGP, MFHOM, AFOM

While working in general practice Ken Elliott developed an interest in the occupational diseases of the rural community, which led in turn to an interest in osteopathy. In 1969 he left general practice to study at the London School of Osteopathy. He also trained in homoeopathy and worked at the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, eventually becoming homoeopathic physician to the Queen. Among his appointments he was president of the International Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health, subdean of the Faculty of Homoeopathy, trustee of the Institute for Complementary Medicine, editor of *Rural Medicine*, and joint editor of *Classical Homeopathy*.

Ken was very much an individualist with an independent mind. Receptive to new ideas and enthusiastic about everything he undertook, he did not like to let go of a project until it was completed. His hobbies included local history and the history of cinema and he collected vintage films and projectors. Among his great finds was a copy on 17.5 mm of the missing parts of Abel Gance's *Napoleon*, which enabled the restoration of Gance's film to be completed. Ken died of a cerebrovascular accident. Two such episodes during the past three years had left him partially incapacitated. He is survived by his wife, Betty, who is also a doctor.—

G L KENNEDY

Charles Kennedy Elliott, latterly a homoeopathist, died 8 December aged 73. Educated Campbell College, Belfast, and Trinity College, Dublin (MB, BCh, BAO 1942). During war served in Royal Army Medical Corps with Indian army in Burma. General practitioner in Wisbech 1949-69.

A DE

MRCPSYCH

Anna De made a considerable contribution in the development, management, and provision of clinical services and in postgraduate training in psychiatry in South Cumbria. She had outpatient clinics at the Barrow and Kendal group of hospitals but retained her longstanding connection with Lancaster Moor Hospital, where the inpatient facilities were sited. She was a member of the psychiatric consultants committee and the psychiatric advisory committee of that hospital and had a special interest in hypnotherapy.

Anna was a friendly person; she was also pragmatic and practical in her psychiatric practice. She loved her garden and her dogs, enjoyed music and reading, and became a jeweller of ability. She loved good food and cooking, and was a generous hostess. She died of a myocardial infarct and is survived by her two brothers and a sister in Calcutta.—M A HALIM, J R THEOBALDS

Annapurna De, a consultant psychiatrist to South Cumbria Health Authority since 1981, died 11 November aged 56. Born Dongargar, India, 19 November 1936; studied medicine at Nilratan Sircar Medical College, Calcutta (MB, BS 1959). Came to England 1961; appointed medical assistant in psychiatry at Lancaster Moor Hospital 1967.

Gerald Ashton, BM, BCH, who was a general practitioner in Dunstable 1935-65, died on 8 January just before his 88th birthday. He won an open scholarship to Oxford and afterwards studied at University College Hospital, London, qualifying MRCS, LRCP in 1932 and graduating BM, BCH in 1935. After retiring from full time practice he spent the next 15 years doing locums in the surrounding district. He also helped his wife with their many charitable works. Theirs was always an open house in which many found a welcome and help. I and my sister—his daughters—and his six grandchildren survive him.—A L O'DONOVAN

Kevin Browne, BSC, MB, BS, a surgical house officer at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, was involved in a car accident on his 25th birthday and died on 31 December. He studied at St George's Hospital Medical School, graduating in 1992. Kevin enjoyed a challenge, and while at medical school he gained a BSc in clinical sciences and O and A levels in German and French and spent a year seeing a patient for weekly supervised psychotherapy. He spent his elective in the South Bronx studying HIV medicine. Kevin made a great commitment to politics and was also editor of and a writer for *Needle*, an award winning intercollegiate magazine. His interests included architecture, art, and literature. A non-conformer, he never compromised his personality or beliefs. He had an open manner and got on with all kinds of people, being a good listener who was generous with his time.—NICOLA BEES

James William Farquhar Lumsden, FRCOG, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in Alberta, Canada, 1968-80, died on 4 December aged 80. Born in Perthshire in 1912, he spent his early childhood in India and then attended Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh. He gained a natural sciences degree at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and worked in Bengal for two years before studying medicine at Edinburgh University and graduating MB, ChB in 1944. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps 1944-6 and then was a senior lecturer in the University of Malaya at Singapore 1950-60. A consultant in Fife 1960-1, he was professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in the University of Khartoum 1961-7 before moving to Canada and retiring to Surrey. Bill did research into the management and prevalence of local diseases, and he established postgraduate teaching facilities in the University of Khartoum. He died of a myocardial infarction and is survived by his wife, two children, and four grandchildren.—E H T LUMSDEN

Arthur Peter Wolken, MRCGP, formerly a general practitioner in London, died on 2 February. He was born in Berlin in 1907, where he studied medicine, qualifying with the state examination in 1933. Because of the persecution by the Nazis he emigrated to Paris in 1936, where he continued his studies. Detained on the outbreak of the second world war, he later joined the French Foreign Legion in Africa. After the occupation of France he was detained in a German concentration camp in Africa in 1943; after the liberation he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He subsequently held resident appointments at the London Jewish Hospital and in the early 1950s went into general practice in Maida Vale, London, where he practised until recently. In 1956 he was appointed medical adviser to the German Embassy. The president of the Federal Republic of Germany conferred on him the Officers Cross of the Order of Merit in 1979. Peter always had time to listen and enjoyed helping people when there was a need. He had no close family.—DOUGLAS WOOLF