Sir Arthur Hurst

A fellow pilgrim writes:

Although it was not my good fortune to know Arthur Hurst in the days of his greatest activity, I have had the privilege of his friendship for some years and now mediocrity was a rare and delightful personality. His gifts, which were truly remarkable, he used unsparingly and with unfailing energy in the advancement of medical knowledge, in teaching and inspiring others in "the research and practice of the healing art with all the secrets of Nature and of experience again following the precepts of Harvey, in promoting "mutual love and affection among physicians." Hurst had the internationalism of medicine much at heart, and in 1928 he led a small company of physicians on their long annual pilgrimage to foreign medical schools. On these occasions he was seen at his best and happiest. An excellent linguist, he was familiar with the best Continental literature and the work of the best men. He was warmly welcomed wherever he went and gave many lectures on his own subject, using French or German with equal facility. His fellow pilgrims will long treasure the memory of these delightful visits under his leadership.

Hurst was no specialist, and his interests and many contributions to medical literature covered a wide range of subjects. Of gastroenterology he was an accomplished master with a world-wide reputation, and his original studies of intestinal function by means of radiology, his work on visceral sensation, and his conception of an ulnar plexus, contributed towards the foundations of modern gastro-enterology. He was largely instrumental in founding in 1937 the Gastro-Enterological Club of Great Britain and became its first president.

Great though his gifts were, and enduring as much of his work was, it was his courage, his fortitude in overcoming the handicaps of physical handicap and ill-health, which endeared him most to those who knew him best. No complaint ever fell from his lips. He accepted his burden and made light of it, so that even the frequent episodes of infirmity were taken for granted. They seemed to spur him to ever greater efforts, and like Wordsworth's happy warrior, he "turned his necessity to glorious gain." But it had been only too evident of late that his strength was slowly failing. The evening before his death he was one of a small group of younger men, and, though gravely handicapped, dominated the discussion, as was his wont, with incisive comment and argument in a discussion as to the most important advances in medicine during recent years. On the morrow he worked at an autobiography which he had long been writing, and the end came peacefully while he was engaged on this congenial task. Arthur Hurst died as he would have wished, at work, his fine intellect undiminished after a full life lived to much purpose. A great physician, a brilliant teacher, and a most lovable man, his death will occasion widespread sorrow, his life deep thankfulness.

Dr. Alex. Patton writes:
May I add a humble tribute to the memory of a great genius? In a world where so many teachers fail to transmit even ideas of value, William Osler and Arthur Hurst—heard once only across the air, or in the whispering bush, will remain a living beacon, as often a babel, and not only in Aesclapius counsel, the English language becomes in the hands of these rare spirits a beautiful garment to clothe refugent thought.

The death of Douglas Ashley Mitchell, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.S.Ed., as the result of a motor collision is little short of disastrous to Bath and district. He had worked as specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist since 1930, when a special gynaecological and obstetric department was formed in the Royal United Hospital largely as the result of his enterprise and enthusiasm. Two years later arrangements were made for the city maternity hospital service to be centred in the Royal United Hospital under the general direction of Mitchell and his staff. During the last war Douglas Mitchell served with the Royal Navy, retiring with the rank of lieut.-cmdr., and then took up general practice at Midsomer Norton. He soon found his special interest and moved to Bath. A member of the B.M.A. since 1911, he served as chairman of the Bath Division during 1936–7. He was elected to Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1933 and is the author of several articles in the medical journals. He made himself universally beloved by all his colleagues and by a large circle of patients, and his loss will be mourned throughout the district as that of a close personal friend.—R. G. G.

We regret to record the death by enemy action of Dr. Luther James Soutter. His eldest son, Ian, a medical student, was killed on the same occasion, and his wife was injured. Dr. Soutter was born on Dec. 13, 1898, the son and grandson of doctors. From Tollington School he entered Westminster Hospital with a scholarship, and won several prizes on qualifying to graduating M.B., B.S.Lond. in 1922, working as house-physician and house-surgeon at the Westminster Hospital for over ten years, he took over his father's practice at Highbury and quickly gained the regard and admiration of his patients. In addition to his many professional duties he played a prominent part in A.R.P. work in the borough of Hornsey, where he was the officer of a mobile unit; he will be sadly missed among the Civil Defence personnel of the borough. A congregation of some 700 colleagues, friends, and patients attended the funeral service at Highbury Quadrant Church, W. In 1942 and 1943, Hornsey A.R.P. medical officer, in a high tribute paid to his colleague in the local newspaper, has written: "The Hornsey mobile units, largely owing to Dr. Soutter's energy and forethought will be among the pioneers at the inception of such work which has now been generally adopted and recognized as invaluable."

News has reached this country of the death on June 25 in Victoria, British Columbia, of Dr. Ivan William Mackinnon, who had been a member of the B.M.A. since the year in which the Association held its Annual Meeting at Winnipeg. Dr. Mackinnon studied medicine in Montreal and Edinburgh; he graduated M.D., C.M. of McGill University in 1902 and took the Scottish triple qualification in 1906. He had been house-physician to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, and senior medical officer and senior clinical assistant to the London Throat Hospital; and during the last war he served with the rank of captain, R.A.M.C. (T.). For some little time before his death he had made voyages as a ship surgeon.

The Services

Temp. Surg. Lieut. A. Finlayson, R.N.R.V., has been mentioned in dispatches for great skill and devotion to duty in the care of survivors from ships which were sunk on the hazardous passage to North Russia.

Temp. Surg. Lieut. E. Fowler, R.N.R.V., has been mentioned in dispatches.

This name appears in a list of awards for outstanding courage, skill and devotion to duty in certain of H.M. ships in action with German destroyers.

Acting Wing Cmdr. R. H. Winfield, A.F.R.C., R.A.F.O., has been awarded the D.F.C. in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

Capt. (Temp. Major) J. G. Reid, R.A.M.C., has been appointed M.V.O. (Fourth Class).

The London Gazette has announced the following appointments, awardings and mentions in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy:


The London Gazette has announced the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Normandy:


Bar to the M.C.—Capt. (Temp. Major) P. K. Jenkins, M.C., R.A.M.C.


The following awards have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field:

D.S.O.—Major H. A. Procter, R.A.M.C.

M.C.—Capt. L. E. Cowan and J. A. Patterson; Lieut. J. L. Heaslip, R.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Major Ewan Boileau Rotherham, son of Dr. and Mrs. F. H. Rotherham of Grimsby was born April 27, 1907. From Uppingham he went to the London Hospital, qualified in 1932, and took the M.B., B.S.Lond, in 1933 with honours and distinction in obstetrics and gynaecology, the subject on which he published his Grimsby. He volunteered at the outbreak of war and went to France in February, 1940. He was through Dunkirk, and went over- seas again in May, 1942, being promoted to major six months later. He was reported on leave in hospital at sea on May 2, 1944, and is now presumed killed in action. He was a member of the B.M.A., and before the war served on the local executive. Mr. Guy Pulveraftt writes: The news of Ewan Rotherham’s loss at sea was a hard knock for us all, and we loved him, and it is difficult to express in words all that he meant to us. Ewan came from the London Hospital in 1933 to work in practice with his father and was soon recognized as a future leader among us. He was always well informed of recent work, and enriched his knowledge and tenacity of thought, which he imparted to those who saw his work. Paediatrics held his keen interest, and his special gifts were gaining him a growing reputation. In early 1940 Ewan received his commission in the R.A.M.C. and in the Army he found his fullest expression. Those who were honoured by his friendship and saw him during brief periods of leave could not fail to be struck by his inward happiness and peace, seen only in those who have no fear of life. His friends mourn him and their hearts go out to his dear ones who face the future here without him.

Killed on active service in Normandy.—Major F. H. Lloyd, R.A.M.C.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lt-Col. Owen Alfred Rowland Berkeley-Hill, I.M.S., is reported to have died recently at Ranchi, India. He was the son of the well-known University College Hospital surgeon and was educated at Oxford, Göttingen, and University College Hospital, London. He qualified with the London Conjoint Board in 1905, took his university degrees in the following year, the D.T.M. in 1907, and proceeded M.D.Oxon in 1914. He gained the first place at the entrance examination for the I.M.S. in 1907 and later specialized in mental diseases and psychology and became the leading authority on mental disease in India. His work was much neglected. When it was decided to move the very out-of-date lunatic asylum from Calcutta, which had previously been a subordinate charge of the senior resident surgeon of the neighbouring European hospital, and to build a modern institution, a portion of the country near Ranchi in Chota Nagpur at an elevation of some 2,000 feet, Berkeley-Hill was chosen to organize and superintend it, which he did with characteristic thoroughness. Apart from war service in East Africa he spent the remainder of his time in the Ranchi post. After his retirement from the Service he lived in England for some years with his wife, an Indian lady, and several children, but subsequently returned to Ranchi to end his days there. His work in organizing the first modern mental institution will live after him, and he contributed a number of papers on his specialty to medical journals. Socially he was the wittiest of companions and a great talker. Officially he was difficult to deal with, but he was successful in his insistence on the new mental hospital being paid for at whatever cost. It will be long before he is forgotten by those who knew him well.

Major P. Heffernan, I.M.S. (ret.), writes: Endowed by Nature with a brilliant intellect, a needle-like wit, and an unsurpassed power of instantaneous repartee, as well as with a considerable amount of congenital impishness, Berkeley-Hill laid himself out throughout his life to debunk pomposity and stupidity in high places, so that on no more than one occasion both India and Africa became almost too hot to hold him. In his specialty he was far in advance of his time, and his contributions to scientific journals written years ago compare favourably with those of to-day’s psychiatrists and are remarkably modern in outlook. His son, a pilot officer in the Royal Air Force, was killed in the defence of Malta two years ago.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation held on July 29 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—*Y. B. Lyman.

M.B., B.Ch.—T. S. L. Beswick; *D. G. Bristow; *D. B. Dabour; *G. S. Galloway; *P. D. B. Davies; *D. W. Young; *W. B. H. Young; *J. D. Dudgeon; *M. A. Foy; *P. H. Friedlander; *J. W. Fullerton; C. E. H. Green; *A. Harrington; *C. E. Hartry; *R. F. Hollick; *N. S. Hooton; *W. R. Horsfall; *R. E. Irvine; *W. Kwanten; *J. Lorber; *M. B. Matthews; *J. R. May; M. Newton; *K. N. V. Palmer; *M. B. Paul; *P. B. Philip-Smith; *P. D. G. Pugh; *G. F. Roberts; *J. R. Roche; *B. Schofeld; *J. A. Shiers; *J. F. N. Sidebotham; *C. A. Soper; *J. M. Stowers; *M. Synons; *K. Turner; *D. V. Vaughan; *P. F. W. Walsall; *V. H. Wilson; *A. P. Wingate; L. Wolfman; *G. S. Yoch.

By proxy.

An announcement appears in the University Report inviting applications for the newly-created professorships. Two are to be appointed to arrange, on behalf of the Ministry of Health, for the provision of postgraduate instruction in the Eastern Counties for medical officers released from the Forces. Applicants should be from 35 to 55 years of age, and hold a medical degree, and have five years practice both full-time and part-time, and at least three years in medical practice alone. The salary will not exceed £1,000 a year, non-tenable, with an allowance for travelling expenses. Applications should be sent before Oct. 2 to the Registrar, University Registry, Cambridge.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

As a result of collaboration between Liverpool University, the Liverpool City Council, and the Royal Liverpool Children’s Hospital, who will share the cost, a Department of Child Health has been established within the University, and will be opened by the Minister of Health in the autumn.

Dr. Norman B. Capon, F.R.C.P., has been appointed part-time director of the new department, and has been given the title of Professor of Child Health while holding that post. He has been lecturer in diseases of children in the University since 1929, and is also lecturer in medical medicine. The new department will be concerned not only with the investigation of diseases of childhood, but also with the preservation of good health, physical and mental, during the early years of life. Its staff will consist of members of the staffs of the Royal and Liverpool Hospitals, and it will include both full-time and part-time officers who, like Prof. Capon, will combine private practice with their departmental duties.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Dr. Thomas Ferguson, deputy chief medical officer, Department of Health for Scotland, has been appointed to succeed Prof. James M. Mackintosh as Professor of Public Health in the University. The incumbent of this chair is associated with the work of the Corporation of Glasgow in India. He graduated M.B., Ch.Bed. in 1922. He became a member of the Home Office Medical Board for Siblicosis in 1929, and a year later was appointed H.M. Medical Inspector of Factories in Scotland, with headquarters in Glasgow. He joined the staff of the Department of Health for Scotland in 1933.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

At a recent meeting of the Court of Assistants, with Mr. L. Vernon Cargill, Deputy Master, in the chair, Dr. J. P. Hedley was elected Master for the ensuing year, and Dr. H. F. Powell and Dr. C. T. Parsons, Wardens. Rear-Adml. C. P. G. Wakeley succeeded Sir Hugh Lett as the Society’s representative on the Governing Body of the British Postgraduate Medical School; and Dr. H. Seaward Morley was appointed to represent the Society on the Negotiating Committee of the British Medical Association. The Presidency of the Society was bestowed upon Sir Buckstone Browne, LL.D., F.R.C.S.