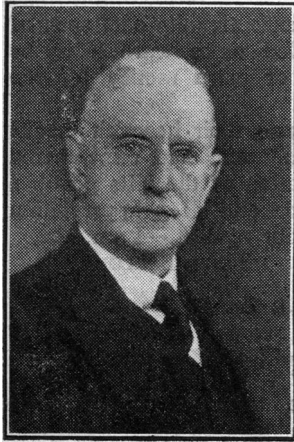


Obituary

E. B. WAGGETT, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.B.

Consulting Surgeon for Oto-laryngology, Charing Cross Hospital

Mr. E. B. Waggett, the well-known laryngologist, died at his home in London on January 5, aged 72. During the past five years he was a familiar figure in the Cavendish Square district in his arm-propelled chair. Before then he had suffered increasingly severe pain in the legs due to sclerosis of the popliteal arteries, for which both limbs were amputated above the knee. He recorded his experiences in a paper, "Criteria of Intolerable Pain," in the



British Medical Journal of May 18, 1935. To a friend's criticism that this analysis of varying degrees of acute pain might cause alarm and despondency in those afflicted with similar trouble, he replied that if it made them contemplate early operation, before years of pain and the toxic influence of starved limbs undermined their health and rendered amputation precarious, so much the better. He wrote:

"The clinical picture before operation is that of a man gradually wearing out in strength and spirit, through pain day and night, punctuated with bursts of acute agony which are the source of misery and anxiety to relatives and friends; immediately after amputation the patient rejoices in the sense of the daily access of increasing strength and good spirits."

Born on January 18, 1866, the son of John Waggett, M.D., Ernest Blechynden Waggett was educated at Charterhouse and at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he won first-class honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos of 1887. From Cambridge he went to study medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and after taking the English Conjoint diplomas he was house-surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital. He then graduated M.B., B.Ch. and became house-surgeon at Bart's to Mr. Howard Marsh, afterwards professor of surgery at Cambridge. His next appointment was that of pathologist at the Throat Hospital, Golden Square, London, and he was elected assistant surgeon there in 1896. He joined the visiting staff of Charing Cross Hospital as assistant surgeon to the throat and ear department, and eventually became consulting surgeon.

For many years Ernest Waggett was an ardent member of the Auxiliary Forces. He joined the R.A.M.C. Volunteers in 1898, was promoted captain in 1901, and gazetted to the Territorial Force on its creation in 1908. In 1910 he was promoted major, and in August, 1914, was mobilized with the 3rd London (City of London) Field Ambulance; with this unit (renamed later the 85th Field Ambulance) he served in France and in the Salonika Force, doing admirable work until the end of the war. He received the D.S.O. in 1918, the Territorial Decoration in 1919, and was created C.B.E. in 1931, having retained his connexion with the Army Medical Services as consulting surgeon to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital. Other institutions which he served as laryngologist at one

time or another were the Royal Northern Hospital, the Chelsea Hospital, and the Hostel of St. Luke in Fitzroy Square; he had also been surgeon-in-ordinary to H.R.H. Princess Christian.

Waggett joined the British Medical Association in 1895, in which year he acted as honorary secretary of the Section of Laryngology at the Annual Meeting in London. He was vice-president of the Section of Laryngology, Otology, and Rhinology at the Belfast Meeting in 1909, and president of the Section of Laryngology and Otology at the Portsmouth Meeting in 1923. In the Royal Society of Medicine he was an honorary member of the Otological Section and past-president of the Laryngological Section. He had also been president of the United Services Medical Society. He wrote a number of papers on throat and nose surgery for medical journals, and for Latham and English's *System of Treatment* and Hutchison's *Index of Treatment*, and in 1907 published a book, *Diseases of the Nose*. He was one of those who, behind the scenes, actively promoted the holding by the British Medical Association in April, 1919, of a special clinical and scientific meeting in London so that medical and surgical problems of the war might be discussed before the dispersal to their homes of medical officers of the oversea contingents and of the United States Army. He was also a moving spirit in the setting up of the Royal Army Medical Corps memorial window in Westminster Abbey and the decoration of the Golden Book containing the names of those who fell in the war. A gifted amateur draughtsman, with a good sense of colour, he was elected a member of the Pastel Society in 1932. Latterly, with his movements restricted, he got much solace from this pursuit, and was represented by a charming picture at the last exhibition of the Medical Art Society. His many friends looked up to Ernest Waggett as a courageous, loyal Englishman with a high sense of duty and a love of beautiful things.

Mr. Herbert Tilley writes:

In due proportion to their intimacy with Ernest Waggett, so will be the difficulty of his friends in appraising the loss of a distinguished laryngologist and otologist and an always loyal colleague. On the assumption that his services to those special branches of medicine will be the concern of others, perhaps it may be permitted me to mention a few personal characteristics which commanded the respect and admiration of his associates and were a source of inspiration to such as he honoured by his friendship.

He and I met for the first time after graduation from our respective universities in the early nineties, at "The London Throat Hospital" in Great Portland Street, where I was the junior member of the staff and Waggett acted as my dresser. Thus was initiated a bond of comradeship which was never strained and only broken last week by his passing from us. Even in those now far-off years one quickly recognized those high principles which were to be the guides of his life and also a capacity for gauging the practical value of new methods of treatment or of inventions which might influence the daily routine of a doctor's life. With regard to the latter, I understood him to say that he was the first London medical man to drive a motor car. Waggett's devotion to the R.A.M.C. was common knowledge to members of our profession, although many may not know that in order to keep in touch with other similar organizations he not infrequently inspected those of Continental armies during their annual manoeuvres. His conviction that our country would be involved in the great war led him to collect and place the necessary kit inside the front door

of his house. When the "call" came he took a taxi and went direct to headquarters.

It was in the "up country" of the Gallipoli campaign where he first experienced painful leg symptoms. These increased in severity and ultimately necessitated the amputation of one leg, and the other after a considerable interval. In spite of such terrible handicaps he continued to take a keen and practical interest in the medical aspects of war and more particularly in supporting the claims for compensation made by those who had been permanently incapacitated by wounds or disease while on active service between 1914 and 1918. But these and similar activities only reflected the high principles which governed the life of our now lamented friend, although they were sometimes misunderstood by those who did not know him well. On one occasion I happened to mention the name of his brother, Father Waggett of the Cowley Brethren, when Ernest said: "Yes, I teach him religion and he teaches me science!" I have often wondered if there might not have been some truth in that jest.

Although time so often scatters the poppy seeds of oblivion over our memories, it is doubtful if his friends in Harley and Wimpole Streets will ever forget Waggett's cheerful hailing and smiling face as he piloted his wheeled chair and the little rough-haired terrier towards his consulting room in 39, Wimpole Street.

[The photograph reproduced is by Lafayette Ltd.]

GEORGE BARGER, D.Sc., M.D.(Hon.), F.R.S.

The death took place unexpectedly in Switzerland on January 5 of George Barger, F.R.S., regius professor of chemistry in the University of Glasgow. Professor Barger had been in good health when he left this country for a holiday in Switzerland, and his death took place from heart failure. He was born in 1878 and received his early education in Holland, studying later at University College, London, and King's College, Cambridge, from which he went to Brussels as a demonstrator in botany at the university there. In 1903 he became chemist to the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, where he was associated with Sir Henry Dale in work on the active principles of ergot and other pieces of research. In 1908 he was appointed head of the chemistry department of the Goldsmiths' College, University of London, and later professor of chemistry in the Royal Holloway College. During the war he worked as a chemist on the staff of the Medical Research Committee—now Medical Research Council. In 1919 he was appointed professor of chemistry in relation to medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and after almost twenty years' service there he was transferred in 1937 as professor of chemistry at the University of Glasgow.

Professor Barger was universally recognized as one of the two or three leading organic chemists in Great Britain, and he had received many honours from other countries. His high reputation caused his department in Edinburgh to be an active centre of chemical research which attracted students from all over the world. The best-known discovery in this department was the establishment of the structural formula of the active principle of the thyroid gland (thyroxine) and its subsequent synthesis. Later the synthesis of vitamin B₁₂ was also attained in this laboratory. In 1928 Professor Barger delivered the Baker lectures at Cornell and the Dohme lectures in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, the latter dealing with his work on ergot. His *Organic Chemistry for Medical Students* has gone through two editions, and a Spanish edition was published in 1935. His work *The Simpler*

Natural Bases appeared in 1914, *Some Applications of Organic Chemistry to Biology and Medicine* in 1930, and his monograph on *Ergot and Ergotism* in 1931. Among the honours conferred upon Professor Barger were those of Hanbury Medallist of the Pharmaceutical Society, Longstaff Medallist of the Chemical Society, and in 1929 he was chosen as president of Section B of the British Association. He held the honorary degrees of LL.D. Michigan, M.D. Heidelberg, D.Sc. Liverpool, doctor of pharmacy of Lausanne, and doctor of the University of Padua.

THE LATE DR. E. W. GOODALL

Professor M. Greenwood, F.R.S., writes:

As an old pupil and almost life-long friend of E. W. Goodall I should like to add a few words to your admirable notice. It is inevitable that "honours"—whether official or scientific—should be unevenly distributed. A very modest man working in a field the publicity value of which is slight will escape the notice of the best people. That was Goodall's fate. He was the Murchison of our age, and as an epidemiologist much greater than Murchison. He was almost of the rank of Budd, whose life he wrote. Some men who are masters of a branch of knowledge inadequately recognized take their revenge by marking the errors of amateurs. Goodall never did this. I and other statisticians have found him the kindest and most patient of collaborators. His memory was almost as phenomenal as Macaulay's. When Report No. 137 of the Medical Research Council Series (Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, 1895–1914) was being compiled, an analysis of Goodall's own experience covering thousands of cases, he was able to correct ambiguities and supplement particulars without reference to documents. He almost seemed to retain in his mind all his clinical experience. We have lost a great man, who to the end seemed so vigorous in body and mind that it is hard to realize he was 78.

Dr. A. P. Cawadias writes:

The loss of E. W. Goodall will be felt intensely by all who strive for a medical art with a wide humanistic outlook. He kept alive the tradition of the humanist physicians who with Thomas Linacre founded modern medicine, the tradition which has endured in this country throughout the centuries. For that reason he was a fine clinician, since the clinical art needs the Hippocratic outlook more than laboratory medicine. His activities, equally divided between epidemiology and history of medicine (a possibly inadequate term for the humanistic and cultural aspect of medicine), gave the stamp to his character as physician. He leaves behind him a definite contribution to the science of epidemic diseases by his work on the epidemic constitution, in which he blended the results of modern analytical research and the conceptions of Hippocrates and Sydenham. Besides its present value this work is full of possibilities for future research on these diseases, too long hampered by an exclusive Pasteurian outlook. He will be remembered as one of the upholders of what Sir William Gull called "the general view" in medicine, and such men are needed in our days of ultra-mechanization. Dignified but modest in his bearing, he had all the qualities of a great academic professor and not those external characteristics that bring success in private practice, which unfortunately are more powerful in influencing medical thought than purely academic work. Up to a point his life was a tragedy, for the lack of an important academic position prevented him from giving all that was in him. However, even so, he succeeded in exerting a definite influence. His retirement was an opportunity for more work, and one or two days before the onset of his last illness he could be seen working actively in the library of the Royal Society of Medicine. May this example of tenacity

inspire those who remain to uphold the spirit of clinical medicine.

Dr. PROSPER ST. LEGER LISTON of Bourton-on-the-Water died very suddenly while visiting a patient on January 2. He belonged to the type of country practitioner whom the people regard as a friend and adviser in realms beyond those of his professional work. His kindness to individuals and his interest in some of the social services of the community were also factors which accounted for the place he held in the affections and respect of those for whom he lived and worked. Dr. Liston was a student of Trinity College, Dublin, and of the Irish Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. He was awarded gold medals in medicine and surgery. After qualifying in 1893 he practised in Ireland, where, like many of his countrymen, his sporting instincts led to his being both a hunting man, with the Meath Hounds, and a polo player. A serious illness led to his eventual settlement in Cornwall for a period of five years, and in 1908 he went to Penang and remained there, working as a general practitioner, until 1917, when he returned to England to join the R.A.M.C. He was wounded at Cambrai in 1918 and, being invalided out of the Army, returned to Penang via America and Japan. He was in Tokyo when the armistice was declared and was fêted as an English officer in the hotel. Dr. Liston's connexion with Bourton-on-the-Water began in 1923, when he joined Dr. R. B. Stewart, who was already in practice there. He has been a liberal contributor both in service and financially to various of the social welfare organizations, and particularly perhaps to the local branch of the British Legion, of which he was in the second year of his presidency at the time of his death. As a contribution to the beauty of the village, Dr. and Mrs. Liston paid devoted attention to the floral cultivation of their garden, which stretches along the bank of the Windrush, and, from the footpath of the opposite bank, the flowers of the spring and summer have always formed a decorative and much-admired display. Dr. Liston was married first to Bella Mary Farlow, who died in Penang. By her he had four sons, one of whom died in infancy and another was killed at the battle of the Somme in 1917. Both the surviving sons, one of whom is a medical man, served in the war. His second marriage was to Miss Evelyn Mary Mahler, who survives him, and for her the greatest sympathy is felt in her bereavement.—C. J. M.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. JOHN WILLIAM APPLGATE of Dewsbury, who had been prominent in the local affairs of the British Medical Association, serving as chairman of the Dewsbury Division in 1925-6 and president of the Yorkshire Branch in 1934-5. Born in London, he studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1888. He began work in Yorkshire as house-surgeon at the Dewsbury and District General Infirmary, and then engaged in general practice until two years ago. He was a member of the honorary medical staff of the Infirmary for twenty-five years, afterwards joining the consulting staff and becoming chairman of the medical board and president of the institution in 1935. During the war Dr. Applegate had charge of the base hospital for wounded at Staincliffe, serving with the temporary rank of Major R.A.M.C.(T.); he was also keenly interested in the first-aid movement, and held various offices in the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He was made a justice of the peace in 1932, and in his well-earned retirement from practice devoted much time to magisterial duties. He joined the British Medical Association in 1906, and was also a member of the Leeds and West Riding Medico-Chirurgical Society. The doyen of the profession in Dewsbury, Dr. Applegate was held in high esteem by his colleagues, and his patients were devoted to him. He was for nine years peoples' warden of the parish church, and in 1936 read the lesson at the centenary celebration of Sir Clifford Allbutt's birth.

Medico-Legal

A MENTAL PATIENT'S OLD AGE PENSION

A little time ago the Court of Appeal made an important decision affecting the status of a rate-aided mental patient.¹

The Lindsey County Council applied last February to the assistant master in lunacy for an order to appoint their public assistance officer as receiver for one of their rate-aided mental patients. The order was granted, and the receiver was directed to lodge in court all sums received by him. The order gave the council a charge on the money in court for any sum due in respect of the patient's maintenance, and provided that the charge would not be enforceable except by leave of the master until the death of the patient, and was to be subject to any order of the master for the application, for the benefit of the patient, of the property charged. The patient was entitled to an old age pension, which was the only money coming into the hands of the receiver, and if he had not been appointed the pension would have lapsed.

The council appealed against the order and asked that it should be varied to provide that the sums lodged in court should be applied to the patient's maintenance.

Judgment of Appeal Court

Sir Wilfrid Greene, Master of the Rolls, delivering a judgment with which Lord Justice Scott and Lord Justice Clauson agreed, would not allow the order to be varied to direct payment of the old age pension in aid of the local rates. He pointed out that previously old age pensions had ceased to be payable when the pensioner became rate-aided, but the law now provided by the Third Schedule of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1936, that the pension should not cease to be payable to a person of unsound mind by reason of the circumstance that he was a rate-aided person. The legislature had quite clearly avoided providing for payment of old age pensions to local authorities in aid of rates, whether the person was of sound or unsound mind. Money received for old age pension in respect of a rate-aided patient in a mental hospital fell to be dealt with under the ordinary jurisdiction of the court. The convenient practice had been adopted of appointing the public assistance officer as receiver; this had the advantage that the pension would not lapse, and therefore that the rights of the local authorities were preserved in the same way as the rights of creditors would be preserved under the lunacy jurisdiction. This form of order had been adopted in some 2,000 cases, and his Lordship was convinced that it was properly made. The local authority had certain statutory rights to obtain some reimbursement of its expenses on the maintenance of the patient. The purpose of the order was to reconcile the interest of the lunatic with the just and fair claims of the local authority, the interest of the lunatic being paramount. The rights of the creditors of a person of unsound mind are, he said, always dependent on the interests of the patient, and the local authorities' position is that of a creditor.

The object of the order was, while preserving to them that right, to ensure that the pension, the only property of the patient, should not go straight into the pockets of the local authorities. Had it done so the result would have been that, should the patient recover, he would go out into the world without a penny. That was not a situation which any prudent and responsible administrator of the lunacy jurisdiction could contemplate for one moment, and accordingly the order was made to enable the court to keep its hand on an accumulation of pension money with a view to securing that, should the patient recover, he would be in a position to start life again. If he died in the institution the local authority could apply to be paid out of the fund in court. The misapprehension which appeared to have existed in the minds of the local

¹ Re T.R.M. 1938 4 All E.R., 194