

SIR ALMROTH WRIGHT

Major-General Henry B. H. Wright, C.B., C.M.G., writes: Yesterday I received a copy of the *Journal* dated May 10, and read your obituary notice of my brother, Sir Almroth Wright. It contains some inaccuracies which you may think worth correcting. He died at his residence, Southernwood, Farnham Common, Bucks. He gave up his London house in Pembroke Square in 1940. After getting his degrees at Trinity College, Dublin, with the funds received from the medical travelling prize he proceeded to Germany. On his return from Germany, seeking immediate means of existence, he took a scholarship at the Inns of Court but dropped his legal studies when he passed into the home Civil Service and was appointed to a clerkship at the Admiralty. When his day's work at the Admiralty was done he spent the rest of his day at the Brown Institute, and while still a Civil Servant was awarded the Grocers' Company's research scholarship. With the means thus available he was enabled to resign his appointment in the Civil Service and go to Cambridge University for further study.

He was educated largely on funds provided by the benefactions of others and to some slight extent contributed to the education of others by sending a cheque for £2,000 last year to the funds of T.C.D.

Sir Thomas Houston writes: While appreciating in a high degree the well-merited prominence you have given in the *Journal* of May 10 in the obituary and editorial to Sir Almroth Wright, the members of the profession here were somewhat disappointed that more emphasis was not laid on his connexions with Ulster. Perhaps you will allow me to add some details to what you have said in this context.

Sir Almroth was born in Richmond, Yorkshire, in 1861, shortly before his father, the Rev. C. H. H. Wright, an Ulsterman, was appointed rector of St. Mary's Parish, Belfast. During his early days he was educated at the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast, and afterwards at Trinity College, Dublin. In his own province—at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Belfast in 1909—he was president of the Section of Haematology and Vaccine Therapy, a section designed to do honour to his work on the blood and on vaccine therapy. In 1912 Belfast gave him the Freedom of the City, and in 1927 the Queen's University conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He made several communications before the Ulster Medical Society and was an honorary fellow of that Society. The laboratory workers of Ulster owe much to the scientific work of Sir Almroth and to the stimulus of his personality and methods. They always received a warm welcome from him and his staff when they visited St. Mary's Hospital. I remember on one occasion I mentioned the success of his typhoid prophylactic inoculations. He replied somewhat as follows: "I would consider it a much greater achievement if I could teach my pupils to make logical deductions and use accurate technique. I would say to them with Pasteur, 'Come away from these polemical discussions, come and be taught methods.'" Lord Moran has described Sir Almroth Wright and his distinguished pupil, Sir Alexander Fleming, as "the two doctors who have saved more lives in the field than anyone else in the world."

Dr. MARY ARIEL STEWART DEACON, formerly of Liverpool, died in Carlisle on April 18 at the age of 75. A native of Somerset, Dr. Deacon was educated at Cheltenham College and at the London School of Medicine for Women. She graduated M.B., B.S. in 1899 and two years later she married Major Thomas Deacon, who was then Postmaster-General of the Gold Coast. She worked there as medical officer of health at Accra for some years. Then in 1916 she was appointed medical officer to the Royal Army Ordnance Depot at Aintree and continued in this appointment until 1919, when she became assistant medical officer of health for Birkenhead. She took her D.P.H. in 1922 and was in public health work in Birkenhead for seventeen years, until her retirement towards the end of 1936. She was at one time president of the Liverpool Women's Medical Association and was appointed M.B.E. in 1918.

D.M.M. writes: Dr. Deacon, who was a strikingly handsome woman, had a colourful, courageous, and lovable personality. Her career was varied and full of incident, and she made friends wherever she went. She will be remembered by countless patients and personal friends for her warm-hearted generosity and the buoyancy of her spirit.

Mr. ARTHUR W. DOWN, founder of Down Bros. in 1879, died at his home on April 2 at the age of 95. Mr. Down had been a governing director of the company since 1902 and he had entered the industry as early as 1866. He was actively interested in the business up to the last few days of his life, and he will be greatly missed by the friends he made in the course of a long business career which brought him into contact with many doctors.

Medico-Legal

INSTITUTE OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

The Institute of Endocrinology Ltd., of 31, Heath Drive, Hampstead, N.W.3, and Jacques J. Harpman, an M.D., of La Plata University, were fined £100 with 12 guineas costs at Hampstead Court on Wednesday, May 7, on six summonses relating to the publication of a booklet "Hormone Therapy" advertising preparations for the treatment of epilepsy, infantile paralysis, and diabetes.

Mr. A. C. Castle, prosecuting for the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, drew attention to the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. Under the Act, he said, it was an offence for any person, even a doctor, to advertise an article which might be used to treat a number of diseases which might be called very difficult or hopeless diseases. Under section 8 a number of such diseases were listed—in particular it mentioned diabetes, paralysis, and epilepsy. In October, 1946, a Mr. John F. Armstrong wrote a letter to the Institute asking for particulars of a certain treatment. He received in reply a list of ailments treated by the defendant Company. The three diseases complained of were mentioned. In the same envelope was a booklet entitled "Hormone Therapy." It was apparently a booklet intended to impress on readers the importance of glands, all glands, and in particular the pituitary, the thymus, and the pancreas. Regarding those three it mentioned *inter alia* that they were respectively responsible for epilepsy, infantile paralysis, and diabetes. In another part of the pamphlet were the words "glands seldom work correctly. . . . Restore balance by our fresh hormone preparations."

Mr. Harpman was interviewed on Feb. 11 by an inspector of the Pharmaceutical Society. He said he had qualified as a doctor in South Africa in 1903 and was in practice until 1930. He took his M.D. at La Plata University. He was 69 years old. In 1930 he founded the Institute of Endocrinology. The booklet was published in 1935.

Mr. Christmas Humphreys, defending, said the Institute had done a great deal of good work. There had never previously been any complaint. From 1932 to 1939 the Institute was at Baker Street and it had an enormous practice. Over 200,000 copies of "Hormone Therapy" had been sent out. Then came the Act. The Act discussed "hopeless diseases," and it said no person should claim to treat them. "He may treat them, he may cure them, but he mustn't claim them. He mustn't advertise." The defendants had to plead guilty to claiming to do something which they probably did do. Regarding the sending of the pamphlet, Mr. Humphreys continued, there are about two dozen left in existence. Somehow Mr. Armstrong was sent the wrong booklet. Since then a new pamphlet had been issued. Mr. Humphreys asked for leniency on the grounds of the long-standing good record of the Institute and of Mr. Harpman the managing director.

Failure of a Restrictive Covenant: Correction

MESSRS. G. D. CANN and HALLETT, Exeter, write: You state in the second paragraph of your report (May 17, p. 700) of the case in the High Court and Court of Appeal, *Routh and Wilson v. Jones*, that our client, Dr. C. G. Jones, "left the service of the partners and bought a house in Okehampton, intending to set up in practice." This is not the case, and the true facts were clearly stated in the evidence before Justice Evershed, and in the judgment. Our client had no intention of starting practising in Okehampton when his contract of service was determined by the partners. This house was, in fact, bought before this occurred; therefore this report is not correct and we must ask you to amend it.