

Obituary

Dr. WILLIAM JOHN FORBES, who was in practice for many years at Knaresborough, Yorkshire, died at his home there on April 22, aged 81. Born on May 9, 1870, he was educated at Queen's (now University) College, Galway, and at Queen's College (now University), Belfast, graduating M.B., B.Ch. from the old Royal University of Ireland in 1893. After a year in private practice in Ireland, he came to England as an assistant in a practice at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, moving to Knaresborough in 1896 and remaining in active work there until the time of his death. Dr. Forbes became surgeon to the Knaresborough Dispensary and for many years he was the part-time medical officer of health to the rural district council. He was also the factory doctor for the area, and Treasury medical officer. A member of the British Medical Association for 58 years, Dr. Forbes was chairman of the Harrogate Division in 1938-9. He leaves a widow, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Dr. E. GARNEYS WALES, who died on May 3, at the age of 75, was the fourth generation of a family of doctors, all trained at Guy's Hospital, who practised from the same house in Downham Market in Norfolk. Thomas Wales, a native of Walberswick, Suffolk, founded the practice in 1792. He was a grandson, on his mother's side, of John Copland, physician to George III, whose gold-headed cane he inherited. Another heirloom that Thomas left was a Royal Humane Society medal which was presented to him in 1803 on the occasion of his saving a Mr. Thomas Farrow from drowning. This must have been one of the earliest occasions on which this medal was awarded. In 1816 Thomas Wales was joined in the practice by his son, Thomas Garneys Wales, who continued to practise for 49 years and achieved a great reputation as a midwife. He appears to have been a man of few vices, apart from the smoking of strong tobacco, and many virtues, as may be judged from letters of appreciation written on his death in 1870 by Sir James Paget, Sir George Humphrey, Sir George Paget, and others. Of his 12 children, only five survived to adult life, the other seven all dying of whooping-cough. In 1855 he was joined in the practice by his son, Thomas Garneys Wales, junior, the father of Edward Garneys Wales, who was born in 1832, five years before Queen Victoria's accession. He was a typical Victorian, top-hatted and bearded. Kindly and quiet, with a strong sense of humour, he was devoted to his profession and to his family, and was deservedly loved by his patients. In 1917 he retired at the age of 83, though in the following year he returned to practise for a short time during the great influenza epidemic, being the only doctor in the neighbourhood to escape the infection.

For the following appreciation of Dr. E. Garneys Wales we are indebted to Dr. G. M. S. Leedham-Green: Edward Garneys Wales was educated at Charterhouse, Downing College (to which he won a scholarship), and Guy's Hospital. He qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1901, and took the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. in the following year. He then returned home to join his father in the family practice, and became "the young doctor," a title he retained until his father died a quarter of a century later at the age of 93. It was a hard life to which he returned, but an enjoyable one, except for the incessant night work. He attended about 100 maternity cases a year, and the only help was from incompetent, usually dirty, old gamps who were responsible for many useless night journeys, many false alarms, and much tedious waiting. Nearly all these cases were at a guinea apiece, and he thought himself lucky if he got it. The state of the fen roads at that time was appalling, especially in the winter, and for nearly 14 years Dr. Wales did the bulk of his visits on horseback, with a lot of cycling in the summer. With his inherited sense of

service and a knowledge of his patients and their forefathers extending by oral tradition for over a hundred years, he was more than a good physician. To all his patients he was a personal friend, whose counsel extended far beyond the consulting-room. This tradition of long and faithful service was evidently infectious. Three coachmen in the service of the Wales family covered between them a total of 105 years. The old dispenser, who died this year, over 80 years of age, came to the firm when he was 21 and reported daily to within a few weeks of his death. It was to him that Edward Wales remarked in connexion with an old bottle labelled "Tinct. Humuli" and formerly the property of the first Thomas Wales: "Has this bottle ever been used?" The considered reply was, "Not in recent years, sir." Tincture of Mould may now be out of date, but its refined descendants stand on the same shelves to-day. Dr. Wales was an artist of considerable merit, and when ill-health forced him to give up practice in 1937 he went (with an artist's appreciation of rounding off the circle) to live at Southwold, within sight of the place which old Thomas Wales left in 1790. He remained gay and cheerful in his retirement, delighting in the company of old friends and new, and dispensing a warm hospitality. His first wife died soon after he had retired. The sympathy of all his friends goes to his widow, his second beloved wife, to whose skill and loving care he owed so much.

We record with regret the death of Dr. JOHN PENMAN at his home at Birkdale, Lancashire, on May 11. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. from the University of Glasgow in 1910, and, after a house appointment at Southport Infirmary and an assistantship in Manchester, he settled at Colne, Lancashire, where for many years he conducted a large practice and was on the visiting staff of the Hartley Hospital. During the war of 1914-18 he served overseas with the R.A.M.C. Persuaded to seek some prospect of leisure, he moved from Colne to semi-retirement at Southport in 1935, but he was soon as fully occupied as before. From his earliest student days his resolute aim was sound general practice in the highest traditions of the family doctor, and to this ideal he steadfastly devoted his life with a constancy and a fidelity that won for him that which he treasured most, the respect and affection of innumerable friends. Now, after 42 years' service in the work he loved, his loss is mourned by colleagues and patients alike. He was a kindly, lovable man and an amiable host. He is survived by his widow and two daughters.—J. I. R.

Medico-Legal

AMERICAN LEGACY TO NATIONALIZED HOSPITALS

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

Mr. E. Stanley Holland was born near Leominster in Herefordshire. At a mature age he crossed the Atlantic, settled in Chicago, became a naturalized citizen of the United States, and amassed a considerable fortune as a contractor. He died unmarried in Chicago in 1936, leaving certain brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces surviving him in England.

During his life he often visited England and made liberal gifts to various Herefordshire charities. He was a life governor of Leominster Cottage Hospital, to which he made substantial contributions during his lifetime, including the construction of a women's ward and the equipment of an x-ray department.

By his will he left the residue of his estate, after providing for various specific bequests, in trust for various members of his family for their lives. On their deaths part of the residue was to be administered for the benefit of certain of