

also had a consulting practice. He was honorary consulting ear, nose, and throat surgeon to the Buchanan Hospital, Hastings, and ear, nose, and throat consultant to the Ministry of Pensions, south-eastern area. In 1950 he was elected a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons. After retiring from London he continued at the Homoeopathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, until 1956, and at the time of his death was still engaged in private practice in Tunbridge Wells. For his recreations he turned to fishing, shooting, gardening, and chess, and never lost his interest in farming. He leaves a widow and one son, who is practising medicine in Montreal.—I. J. F.

#### N. J. BODKIN, M.B., B.Ch.

Dr. N. J. Bodkin died at his home at Southfields, London, on March 31 at the age of 57.

M. D. N. writes: Born in Galway, Nicholas John Bodkin graduated M.B., B.Ch. at the National University of Ireland in 1925. Then, after experience as senior medical officer at the Central Hospital, Galway, and in the East End of London, he settled in general practice in Southfields in 1931. He soon became one of the best-known practitioners in south-west London, while his patients valued his efficiency, cheerfulness, and hard work. Despite his busy life, he served for a time on the old local medical committee. During the second world war, when he was overworked owing to the absence of his partner on active service, he gave an outstanding example of fearless and cheerful service in charge of a mobile unit in the civil defence of Wandsworth. For many years he acted as medical officer to pilgrimages to Lourdes. Owing to failing health he had to give up his golf in recent years, but he still retained his great interest in Rugby football, at which he had represented his university college with distinction. It is a remarkable fact that "Bod" was one of the seventh generation of Bodkins in the medical profession. His requiem mass, presided over by the Bishop of Southwark in a full church, was attended by professional colleagues from all over London. Dr. Bodkin's gaiety of spirit was infectious and his kindness and generosity were proverbial. We shall not look upon his like again. He is mourned by a host of patients, friends, and colleagues, and the sympathy of all is extended to his widow and three children, as well as to his three partners.

#### HÉLÈNE NORRIS, M.D., L.M.S.S.A.

Dr. Hélène Norris, who was in general practice in the West End of London for many years, died on April 8 after a long illness.

D. C. N. writes: Hélène Rathouse was educated in Geneva, where, after graduating M.D. in 1914, she served as intern in the surgical clinic of Professor Girard. Later she studied neurology in Paris under Professor Soukes, and achieved some success in the treatment of war neuroses, especially hysterical contractures. Her sympathetic temperament and robust common sense often enabled her anxious patients to regain insight and self-control. She spent four happy and useful years in charge of the Maisons Américaines de Convalescence at Arromanches, a haven of refuge for children from the war-devastated areas of Belgium and northern France, including many with tuberculosis and nutritional disorders. During this period she came into contact with members of the British Forces stationed in France, and conceived an admiration for the British and their way of life, so that in 1921 she came to London to study for an English diploma. This she gained in the following year, after study at Charing Cross Hospital and with the aid of coaching (in French—for she spoke hardly any English) from Dr. D. C. Norris, who had been himself a student in the Paris hospitals. In 1923 she and Dr. Norris were married, and, after a few years of residence in the City of London, they moved to Portland Place, where she soon established herself as a general practitioner, and

assisted her husband in his medico-legal work. She never had a large practice, greatly preferring to cultivate her patients as friends. It was no uncommon thing for her to spend an hour or more with a single case, discussing quietly all kinds of personal problems, by no means limited to medical matters, and giving detailed advice on diet, work, holidays, and all the thousand and one factors concerned with the welfare of her patient. Many a time a patient has left her consulting-room with a light heart, having discovered for the first time a doctor who seemed to have unlimited time to listen, and who was ready to help at every point in solving a problem. She made proper use of modern remedies, but never fell into the error of thinking that these offered any short cut to success in treatment, or reduced the need for the most careful examination and the most thorough general management of the patient's life so as to secure the best results from treatment. In 1946 she herself underwent a major operation, from which it was not to be expected that she would survive more than five years, but in fact she resumed active practice, and kept reasonably well for ten years before she had again to undergo an operation for recurrence of the condition. Again she rallied to a remarkable degree, and it was only in the last fortnight of her life that the disease got completely out of hand. She had known for years what to expect, and faced the situation with quiet courage and a smile, never allowing her personal feelings to interfere with her work as long as she had strength to carry on. Always glad to renew old friendships in Geneva and France, she was a founder-member and one-time president of the Geneva University Club. She loved to entertain people who had worked with her abroad and who were visiting this country, and to visit them in turn during motor tours of the Continent—an annual event before the second world war. She will be sadly missed by those patients who have profited from her wise advice, which embodied the highest traditions of general practice. She is survived by her husband and by one son, a medical student, who spent a vacation course in the University of Geneva last summer.

#### D. L. LITTLE, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. D. L. Little, who had practised in Dudley for over twenty years, died earlier this month. He was 49 years of age.

Douglas Leigh Little was born on October 21, 1908. From Glasgow High School he went on to Glasgow University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1932. During his academic years he took an active part in the athletic club, obtaining his "blue" for hockey and occasionally playing in the university golf team. He was chosen on several occasions for the Scottish hockey final trials but was always second choice for the national team. After resident posts in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Eastern District Hospital in Glasgow, he, like so many Scots before him, travelled south across the Border and never regretted it. At first an assistant in West Bromwich in 1934, he joined Dr. V. Gray Maitland in Dudley in 1935 as a partner. A keen Territorial, he left practice at the outbreak of war as medical officer to the 119 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, serving with them in England and Northern Ireland. Later he served as senior medical officer in troopships, ending his service in 1945 as lieutenant-colonel. On his return to Dudley he quickly regained his practice and was soon in a position to take on a partner. As a supporter of the British Medical Association, he took an active part in local discussions before the National Health Service was established. He represented the Dudley Division at Annual Meetings from 1947 until 1951 and was chairman of the Division in 1953-4. An enthusiastic sportsman, he had represented Staffordshire at hockey before the war, but later he concentrated on golf and was captain of the Enville Golf Club in 1952. Despite the cares of a busy practice he was a member of the Dudley executive council and chairman of the local ward of the Conservative party. Widely