Obituary

A. I. SHEPHEARD-WALWYN, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed.

Dr. A. I. Shepheard-Walwyn, honorary consulting physician to the Cumberland Infirmary, died at Aglionby, near Carlisle, on April 6 at the age of 77.

Alfred Irving Shepheard-Walwyn was born at Windermere on October 29, 1881, and was educated at Rugby School and Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1905, proceeding to the M.D. four years later. After graduation he held the appointments of clinical assistant, house-physician, and house-surgeon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and house-physician at Paddington Green Children's Hospital before he settled in practice at Wetherall, Cumberland. Later he moved to Carlisle and became physician to the Cumberland Infirmary. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1926.

J. N. J. H. and J. A. R. write: Though Shepheard-Walwyn retired in 1946 and, partly because of indisposition, took little active part thereafterwards in medical affairs, he will still long be remembered by the many practitioners in Cumberland and neighbouring counties in the north-west of England and over the Scottish border for his valuable service as a medical consultant. As an undergraduate in Edinburgh Shepheard-Walwyn sat at the feet of distinguished teachers—Crum Brown, William Turner, and Schafer, and among the physicians, Byrom Bramwell, Robert Philip, Thomas R. Fraser, George Gibson, Greenfield, and many others. He became house-physician to George Gibson, a pioneer in cardiology, with whom he retained a lifelong friendship. Later he studied for a time under Parkinson in London, and naturally acquired a special interest in cardiology. But Shepheard-Walwyn, having a wide experience of many branches of medicine, was essentially a general medical consultant.

As honorary members of the Cumberland Infirmary staff we were closely associated with Shepheard-Walwyn, one of us for a period of nearly three decades and the other for two, and both were privileged to become his intimate friends. As a medical consultant he possessed outstanding qualities. His examination of a patient was meticulous and comprehensive, he kept pace with advances in medicine and made use of various laboratory techniques as soon as their value was established. He had a high sense of medical responsibility and spared no time or effort when presented with a clinical problem. His long and wide experience gave him an uncanny intuitive faculty in diagnosis, but his final opinions were invariably based on a careful and logical consideration of all the data obtained: and how wise these opinions were.

Hospital duties and private work left him little spare time for recreation when in Carlisle. He had, however, many hobbies, in all of which he excelled. He came of a musical family and was himself a skilled pianist. Of his other hobbies the chief were fishing, shooting, photography, and gardening. Some of the happiest memories we shall retain of him are of the occasional stolen day spent with him and his spaniels walking up partridge in the turnip field, or of shooting driven grouse on the Pennines, or of a day fishing on the Eden or one of its tributaries. He rarely travelled abroad, but for holidays sped immediately north to his beloved Scottish lochs and rivers. His favourite haunt was a small, unpretentious but comfortable inn on the banks of Loch Awe. After retiring, and especially when he became less vigorous, Loch Awe was his favourite retreat, and he and a number of his friends usually forgathered there in spring and autumn. He retained a boyish spirit to the end, and those who were fortunate enough to share these holidays will have a wealth of memories of fishing on the loch, of picnics on its shores and islands during the day, and of happy evenings spent by a log fire. It is beside this loch, at his request, that his ashes have been scattered. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, who, though much disabled by rheumatism, nursed her husband with such devotion and skill during his last distressing illness. Our sympathy is also extended to their two sons, both graduates of Edinburgh University, one a schoolmaster in the south of England and the other a lecturer in a school of agriculture in New Zealand.

JAMES KELMAN, M.D., D.P.H.

Dr. James Kelman, medical officer of health for the counties of Perth and Kinross since 1946, died at Perth Royal Infirmary on April 24. He was 56 years of age.

A native of Keith, Banffshire, James Kelman was born on November 9, 1902, and was educated in Dundee. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. at St. Andrews University in 1926, took the D.P. in 1930, and proceeded M.D. in 1939. After acting as house-physician and house-surgeon at Dundee Royal Infirmary he was resident medical officer at Noranside Sanatorium, in Angus, from 1928 to 1931. Appointed assistant medical officer of health for Angus in 1931, he became assistant medical officer of health for Perth and Kinross a year later, succeeding to the senior post in 1946. He gave valuable help on medical and welfare committees in the city and county, and his B.C.G. scheme was one of the first in Scotland.

Dr. Kelman was honorary secretary of the Perth Branch of the British Medical Association from 1941 until his death, and had been honorary secretary of the local medical committee since the institution of the National Health Service. In these capacities he became well known to all doctors in the area, especially to those in general practice. He was a constant source of help and encouragement and gained their great respect and affection. He served on several committees of the B.M.A., including the Scottish Committee (now Council) since 1948, the Public Health Committee since 1951, the Constitution Committee, and the Royal Commission Evidence Subcommittee (public health). He was a member of the council of the Sanitary Association of Scotland, and at the time of his death president-elect of the Scottish branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

Music provided one of the few reliefs he allowed himself from a life of dedicated service. As a student he travelled widely with a ship's band, and he was a member of the Perth Symphony Orchestra. He seemed well on the way to recovery from the illness which had struck him down six weeks previously, and was engaged in a discussion on the future activities of the Perth Branch of the B.M.A., for which he had done so much, when the end came suddenly and peacefully. He leaves a widow and a young daughter, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.—J. S.

C. J. S. writes: James Kelman was quiet and unassuming in his manner but highly efficient in whatever he put his mind to. He was one of the most broad-minded of men in the public health service in Scotland. Although he had never actually engaged in general practice he had an intimate knowledge of the workings and a sympathetic appreciation of the problems of family doctoring, and this, coupled with his early experience in hospital, made his influence a potent factor in the closer interpretation of the three parts of the health service in Perthshire. As honorary secretary of the Perth Branch of the B.M.A. and of the local medical committee his work was beyond praise, and only now that he is gone can we in Perthshire fully realize how much time and thought and real hard work he must have given to those duties and how much we depended upon him for the smooth running of our committees. In the wider sphere as a member of the Scottish Council of the B.M.A. and of the Public Health Committees in both Edinburgh and London, his sound, practical common sense was much sought after and his contributions to the debates were highly appreciated and respected. Truly his passing is a great loss to the profession in Scotland, and in Perthshire there is a blank that will not readily be filled.

RUTH C. EASTERLING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. Ruth Easterling, who died at Welwyn Garden City on April 8 at the age of 73, was a historian of distinction before she qualified as a doctor 25 years ago.

Ruth Clark Easterling was born in London on August 2, 1885, and was educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College and at Bangor College in the University of Wales. She took an honours degree in history, and was awarded a research studentship in 1913, the second year of which was to be spent in London: this was later converted to a fellowship. In 1914 she began postgraduate work at the London School of Economics and published the result of this work, "Friars in Wales," in *Archaeologia Cambriensis*, and "Elnior, Bishop of St. Asaph" in the Flintshire Record Society's journal. After several years at the London School of Economics, she worked with Dr. Hubert Hall, Deputy Keeper of the Rolls, and in 1919 did research work on Sir Francis Pigott's staff. She then went to Exeter as a member of the staff of the Royal Albert Memorial College, which was about to be granted a charter as a university college. She was appointed to lecture in the honours course in history and to do research work, and it was at this time that she made the dramatic discovery of the importance of the Exeter Records.

In 1927 she began her medical career and entered King's College Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1934. After holding several house appointments in London she returned to Exeter to be with her mother and took an assistantship in general practice. Always most interested in psychological medicine, she later acted as locum for long periods at the Digby Mental Hospital and Wonford House Hospital, Exeter. Her last work was to make a report on the records of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and of Wonford House Hospital. For the last few years of her life her health was poor and she was in constant anxiety that the fruits of both her historical and psychological research should not be lost. Finally she was moved to the home of a devoted life-long friend in Welwyn Garden City, where she died.

Ruth Clark Easterling was a woman of complete integrity and was respected and loved by all who knew her. Unassuming and exceedingly modest, she was unfailingly kind and generous to her patients and deeply loyal to her friends. One of her oldest friends has written, "Ruth Easterling was one of those scholars who was deeply learned in her own subjects, and she had many. Nevertheless, in the ways of the world she was simple to a degree which excites cupidity in the dishonest and ignorant, but compassion and love in the friendly."—S. J. P. G.

Medical Notes in Parliament

RADIATION BY INSTALMENTS

The Prime Minister's considered statement on radiation hazards (*Journal*, May 9, p. 1248) has become, for the time being at any rate, the basis for a twice-weekly class. There is a hazard of its own about the lesson, because whether it begins early enough to be useful—or even at all—depends on the clock, which at least is a constant factor, and on the amount of time M.P.s spend on interrogating other Ministers first on almost every other subject. Questions to the Prime Minister begin, by long-standing custom, at No. 45, and as a matter of convenience are largely restricted to Tuesday and Thursday in each week. On the topics which engage other Ministers between questions 1 and 44 depends how much of the question hour is available for interrogation of the Prime Minister.

Where Does Most Come From?

Thus on May 5 there were eight questions awaiting Mr. MACMILLAN on radiation topics, of which only two were asked verbally, and two others received written answers. In the time he had Mr. Macmillan set out the proportions of radiation to which mankind was subject in this ratio: 100, existing natural radiation in the world, the inevitable, ineluctable radiation ever since creation; about 22, in the United Kingdom (more in the United States), from medical *x*-rays, various industrial processes, wrist watches, etc.; between 1 and 2, the result of nuclear fall-out.

One of the aspects that attracted much attention was the threshold dose, but the answer to that came more concisely in written form to a question that Dr. BARNET STROSS had put down about strontium-90. He was told that, while existing evidence did not permit a firm decision as to whether there is a threshold dose, there was no direct evidence that radiation from the minute amounts of strontium-90 in human bone had caused injury to anyone.

Fall-out on Britain

On May 7 six more questions appeared for oral answer. Three of them, which the Prime Minister took together as one group, dealt with the measurement of strontium-90 deposits in the United Kingdom and particular areas, and he explained the method by which the figures were reached, subsequently adding that it took about three months to complete a determination of strontium-90, and then there must be the interpretation of the results in relation to each other; to be of any value the results should cover a sufficiently long period to iron out temporary or short-term effects of unusual phenomena.

In his answer, Mr. MACMILLAN said that about half a dozen monitoring stations were established in different parts of the country (including one in Scotland), and at these the deposition of strontium-90 was measured in relation to the rainfall. It had been found that the amount of deposition of strontium-90 varied with the rainfall. It was therefore possible to estimate what amount of strontium-90 was likely to be deposited in any area in the United Kingdom for which the rainfall was known. In addition, samples were taken of strontium-90 in food (especially milk), herbage, and soil in many different areas, and these supplied complementary information. The figures were published from time to time. The maximum deposition of strontium-90 observed had been at two stations on Snowdon, both of which were at a high altitude. The latest Atomic Energy Authority report on this subject gave the figures for these two stations for the first six months of 1958 (8.3 and 9.6 millicuries of strontium-90 per square kilometre). These levels were some four to five times the representative value for the country as a whole. This reflected the higher rainfall of that area.

Mr. HUGH GAITSKELL, Leader of the Opposition, recalled the impression left by the earlier pronouncement that strontium deposits had doubled within a year, and questioned Mr. Macmillan about this. The PRIME MINISTER in reply summarized paras. 281 to 284 of the Medical Research Council's Report, and said that the concentration of strontium had not reached anything like the figure of 100 units which the M.R.C. had accepted for working purposes (compared with the 1,000 units accepted by the International Committee on Radiological Protection as a maximum permissible level for adults in special occupations).

Chances of Reducing our Exposure

Captain R. A. PILKINGTON (Poole, Con.) asked what measures had been taken to reduce nuclear radiation other than that caused by bomb tests. Mr. MACMILLAN said it was not possible to reduce radiation from the principal source to which mankind was exposed—namely, the natural background. As regards medical uses, Lord Adrian's Committee had just issued an interim report* which needed careful study. As regards industrial radiation, various measures had been taken. It was the policy of the Government that all operations involving the use of ionizing radiation should be carried out in such a way as to keep to a minimum the extent to which persons were exposed to such radiations.

*See *Journal*, May 9, p. 1232.