

sport received a new impetus when he was appointed medical officer to Blackburn Rovers Football Club in 1920. Thereafter he travelled many thousands of miles with his beloved team. One of his most prized possessions was a gold hunter watch, a gift from the playing staff and directors on the attainment of his silver jubilee as club surgeon. He was elected president of the club in 1948, a position he held until the date of his death.

Despite his sporting associations medicine remained his first love, and to his calling he devoted most of his energies. Quite early in his career he became interested in radiology. He was eventually appointed consultant radiologist to the Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Pressure of work and his many outside commitments compelled him to relinquish this post after a few years. Nevertheless he kept up his interest in the subject. He installed an x-ray unit at his home and soon established an extensive practice as a private radiologist. He was a pioneer, too, in the field of industrial medicine in East Lancashire, and was for many years medical officer to two large local concerns. He became president of the Blackburn and District Medical Society in 1947. He bitterly opposed the introduction of the new National Health Service in 1948. Always a sturdy individualist, he disliked the regimentation and officialdom inseparable from such an innovation. Resigning from the Service, he concentrated on his outside interests and his large private practice.

The welfare of his patients came before everything else in his life. He never lost his temper, neither did he give way to the emotional outbursts whereby lesser men are liable to relieve their feelings under duress: to the end he remained kind, courteous, and gentle. He will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. To his widow and six surviving children—one of whom, Dr. A. M. Sellars, is medical superintendent of Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn—we extend our sincere sympathy.

#### DOROTHY L. C. DAY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. Dorothy L. C. Day, of Croydon, who practised in Croydon for 30 years, died in a nursing-home there on February 21. She was 77 years of age.

Dorothy Lili Crundall Day was born in Kent on February 11, 1884. She spent the latter part of her school-days in Berlin, and was afterwards trained there and in Paris as an opera singer. She left Germany in 1914 and worked as a health visitor in Norfolk until 1919, when she entered the London Hospital as a medical student and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1924. After holding posts at the London Hospital as clinical assistant in the V.D. and children's out-patient departments, she bought the practice of the late Dr. Ella Flint, of Croydon, in 1927 and remained in practice there until 1957. She became a member of the executive committee of the Croydon Division of the B.M.A. and was chairman of the Division from 1939 to 1944. She was also a member of the health committee of Croydon Corporation and of the Croydon panel and local medical committees.

During the last 10 years of her life she suffered from several grave illnesses, including a serious motoring accident. She met these ordeals with great courage, retaining her zest for life and always looking incomparably young for her years. She was a very gallant gentlewoman, and much beloved by her patients and friends.—R. C. T.

#### J. R. DOBBIN, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. J. R. Dobbin, who formerly practised at Ixworth, near Bury St. Edmunds, died on February 14 at Ottery St. Mary, Devon. He was 80 years of age.

John Robson Dobbin was born on June 1, 1880, in Banbridge, Co. Down, the younger son of the late William Dobbin, M.D., F.R.C.S. Educated at the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast, and Edinburgh University, he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1903. Later that year he became an assistant to Dr. Gelsten, who was in practice at Ixworth, Bury

St. Edmunds, and in 1908 he became a partner. In the first world war he served as a captain in the R.A.M.C., but was sent home in 1917 owing to the sudden death of his partner. Thereafter he ran his large rural practice single-handed until an attack of coronary thrombosis in 1943 compelled him to retire, and eventually he went to live in Ottery St. Mary. He was a member of the old insurance committee for many years and an active member of the B.M.A., having been chairman of the West Suffolk Division in 1926-7 and president of the Suffolk Branch in 1934-5.

Mr. D. J. P. O'MEARA writes: John Dobbin was all that a first-class family doctor should be. A sound and painstaking clinician, he devoted the whole of his life to his patients, and treated them all—rich and poor—with the same charming kindness, sympathy, and attention. A very busy and scattered rural practice did not allow him much time for leisure, but in his few spare moments he enjoyed his garden and the company of his devoted family. To his widow, daughters, and two sons, one of whom is in medical practice in Fleet, we send our deep sympathy, with a prayer that this grand doctor and great gentleman may rest in peace.

#### J. D. SINCLAIR, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. J. D. Sinclair, who was in general practice in Streatham for 22 years, died in the Westminster Hospital on February 21 after a sudden and brief illness. He was 62 years of age.

James Denny Sinclair, born in Dundee on July 3, 1898, served in France as a combatant during the first world war. Later he became a medical student at St. Andrew's University, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1925. After resident appointments in Dundee and at Leysin, in Switzerland, he joined in a partnership at Erith, Kent, where he remained until 1938. He was honorary secretary of the Dartford Division of the B.M.A. for some years and chairman of the Division from 1932 to 1934. Moving to Streatham when he left Erith he had a busy practice there, and in addition worked in local authority clinics. For many years, up to the time of his last illness, he was police surgeon at Norbury. He was for about 20 years a member of both the executive committee of the Wandsworth Division of the B.M.A. and of the London local medical committee and its predecessor the local panel committee. For a time he served on the council of the Association of Police Surgeons of Great Britain, and he was elected president of the South-west London Medical Society in 1955. In addition to these professional activities, he was a keen and active Rotarian, having been president of the Streatham Club and chairman of the Streatham Branch of the United Nations Association. He took an especial interest in the efforts of both of these bodies to aid refugees.

Such a recital of Dr. Sinclair's many activities gives some idea of the busy life he led. In committee he often described himself as a "rebel" and expressed his opinions with great vigour; he was stimulated by opposition but was always patient and generous towards those who did not agree with him. He very properly earned the affection of a wide range of people, both within and outside the profession. His last few years were saddened by the long illness of his wife, like himself a Scot, whom he first met in a hospital in France in 1916. Mrs. Sinclair died only six weeks before her husband. They are survived by a son and two daughters, to whom our sympathy goes in the loss of both parents within so short a time.—G. J. G.

#### N. M. STEPHEN, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. Noel Stephen, who was in practice in Peasenhall, Suffolk, died suddenly on February 24. He was 60 years of age.

Noel Mackintosh Stephen was born in Midlothian on December 25, 1900, and educated in the south of France. He enlisted as a private in the first world war, and after-

wards enrolled as a medical student at Edinburgh University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1924. After holding posts as house-surgeon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Peterborough Hospital, he worked as an assistant in Jedburgh and St. Andrews. In 1927 he bought a practice in Peasenhall, Saxmundham, Suffolk. In 1937 he joined the Territorials and was called up for service at the outbreak of war in 1939. At first he was with an anti-aircraft battalion, but later became senior medical officer in troopships with the rank of major: he was present at the invasion of Sicily. In 1945 he returned to Peasenhall, where he continued in practice until his death.

He was an appointed factory doctor for the district and honorary physician to the Patrick Stead Hospital, Halesworth.

Dr. Stephen leaves a widow, two sons—one in general practice in Lowestoft—and a daughter.

Dr. E. A. C. WILSON writes: I would like to pay tribute to the late Dr. Noel Stephen, of Peasenhall, whose sudden death came as a great shock and grief to his patients and friends. As one patient said, "Dr. Stephen was a real family doctor, so kind, understanding, and patient, and so clever." His special interests were in surgery and obstetrics, and it is regrettable that general practice since the war has offered no scope for his talent in this field. His manual dexterity was outstanding, whether demonstrated in reducing dislocations or building boats. In obstetrics, too, his record is an enviable one—he never lost a mother in childbirth.

Dr. Stephen was an excellent linguist and brought comfort to many an alien foreign visitor by friendly conversation in their own language. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, sons, and daughter.

#### A. F. D. CARRIE, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. A. F. D. Carrie, who practised in the Hulme district of Manchester for over 30 years, died on March 13, aged 64. He was a Fellow of the British Medical Association.

C. V. B. writes: Our profession, and especially the general practitioners in Manchester, have suffered a grievous loss in the death of Alexander Ferrier Dunn Carrie. It is indeed difficult to imagine a life so dedicated to the service of his fellow practitioners, and we who came most closely into contact with him are truly grateful. Though born south of the border, his childhood was spent in Arbroath. His schooldays there were immediately followed by service in the first world war. He served in Gallipoli and Palestine and was severely wounded, necessitating two years in hospital. On his return to civil life he received his medical education at the University of St. Andrews. He graduated in 1925, and after spending three years in locums and assistantships he succeeded to the practice of the late Dr. Arthur Chapman in the Hulme district of Manchester. In those days it was one of the most poverty-stricken areas, and the going was hard indeed.

He joined the B.M.A. when he qualified, and he served it faithfully and well—both locally and centrally. He was a member of the local executive committee for many years, and recently held the office of senior vice-chairman of the Division. He was a representative in the Representative Body for the past 15 years. He had been a member of the Central Ethical Committee since 1944, and his knowledge and understanding of ethical matters were most helpful when local problems arose. His colleagues were more than gratified when he was made a Fellow of the British Medical Association. It was, however, through the local medical committee and its predecessor, the local medical and panel committee, that he gave the greater part of his service to his fellow practitioners. All told, he served on these committees from 1929 onwards, and he was honorary secretary of the local medical committee from the inception of the National Health Service till his retirement from general practice last year. This carried with it membership of the executive council and many sub-

committees of both bodies as well as regular attendances at the Conferences of Local Medical Committees.

Dr. Carrie's interest in clinical medicine was shown by his membership of the various local medical societies. He was a Fellow of the Manchester Medical Society, which he joined in 1929, and was an original member of the General Practitioners' Section when it was established in 1951, serving on its committee for three years and holding office as president during the session 1953-4. He joined the Manchester Medico-Ethical Society in 1948 and served his term as president in 1957. He was a foundation member of the College of General Practitioners and had been on the North-western Faculty Board since its inception. In addition to all these activities he was an enthusiastic member of the St. John Ambulance Association and had been a corps surgeon since 1940. He was recently appointed a serving brother, but ill health prevented him from undertaking the journey to receive the award. It is indeed difficult to imagine how a single-handed general practitioner could give so much service to his fellow men, especially as in the last few years he was afflicted with very poor health. His courage and determination under such circumstances were an example to us all. I cannot do better than quote one of the passages of scripture read by the minister at his funeral: "He has fought the good fight." We, his colleagues, believe this to be profoundly true, and hope that it will bring a great measure of comfort to his widow and two daughters, to whom we offer our most sincere sympathy.

#### W. A. S. THOM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc.

Dr. W. A. S. Thom, who practised in Peebles, died at his home there on February 24. He was 60 years of age.

William Albert Strang Thom was born in Carradale, Argyllshire, on April 22, 1900. He was educated at Glasgow High School, and thereafter served as a midshipman in the Royal Navy in the first world war. Originally it was his intention to become an industrial chemist, and he graduated B.Sc. at Glasgow University in 1923. The call of the sea, however, was always very compelling, and he soon relinquished his post to join the late Commander F. A. Worsley in the British Arctic Expedition of 1925. This was the last Polar exploration under unaided sail, and in it W. A. S. Thom was chemist and second officer.

After his return he resumed his work as an industrial chemist. Industry and big business had few attractions for him, and in due course he turned to the study of medicine, graduating M.B., Ch.B. at Glasgow University in 1940. After house posts at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and in the Royal Maternity Hospital he took up a partnership in Peebles, where he practised till a few months before his death, and where he will be sadly missed by patients, friends, and colleagues.

Dr. Thom was a man of wide interests, of great talents, and yet of unassuming modesty. In his spare time he was a keen angler and an expert yachtsman, and the author of fascinating adventure novels for young people. Indeed, the last of his books is even now in the course of publication. But, with all these qualities, he will be remembered best as a gentle and conscientious doctor who practised the art of medicine with great wisdom, and in so doing earned the admiration and respect of his colleagues and the affection of his patients.—C. C.

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A five-year grant of \$153,890 has been made by the National Institutes of Health, U.S.A., to workers at the Isaac Albert Research Institute of the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y. The grant is being made for studies into Tay-Sachs' disease and allied fatal degenerative diseases of the nervous system occurring in infancy and childhood. Specifically, the study is on "enzymatic histochemistry of the central nervous system of the sphingolipidoses."