

## Obituary Notices

D. G. C. TASKER, B.S.C., M.S., F.R.C.S.

Mr. D. G. C. Tasker, formerly surgeon to the United Bristol Hospitals, died suddenly on 18 December at the age of 74, bringing to a close a long association with the Bristol Medical School and its affiliated hospitals.

Douglas George Clutsam Tasker was born on 25 May 1893, and received his education at Bristol University and at the Middlesex and London Hospitals. He graduated B.Sc. in 1913 with first-class honours gained from research in biochemistry. In 1914, when still a medical student, he joined the 6th Battalion of the Worcesters. His active service in France ended when, in September 1915, he was made to resign his commission and sent home to complete his medical studies, but not before he had been decorated with the Croix de Guerre. He took the London degree of M.B., B.S. as an external student in 1916, joined the R.A.M.C., and was promptly drafted to Salonika. After demobilization he returned to Bristol in 1918, and for two years was house-surgeon at Bristol General Hospital before taking the M.S. and the F.R.C.S., both in 1920. For the next two years he was resident surgical officer at the Bristol General Hospital, where he was appointed assistant surgeon in 1923 and full surgeon in 1932. He continued attending the General Hospital until 1948, when he became surgeon at the Royal Infirmary Branch of the United Bristol Hospitals, which post he held until his retirement in 1958. He enjoyed his surgical work at smaller hospitals at Berkeley, Clevedon, and Cossham, and as surgical consultant to the Bristol Mental Hospitals.

He renewed his association with the Uni-

versity and the United Bristol Hospitals when in 1961 he became chairman of the Joint Registrars Committee, which post he held for the rest of his life.

Douglas Tasker was a man of forthright views, and enjoyed a battle against any opposition. He had a clear, incisive mind which showed itself particularly well in all the medico-legal work with which he was concerned, both during his active surgical life and subsequently as a member of the Medical Appeals Tribunal. He was a member of the Council and then vice-president of the Medical Defence Union for many years.

Of his hobbies many may not know of his love of classical music and his skill in growing magnificent sweet peas, or of his technical knowledge of gardening in the greenhouse. In his early years he was a keen squash and lawn-tennis player and represented his county at badminton. Later he became a very keen golfer, which indeed he remained until some four or five years ago. To his enjoyment of games was added his pleasure in attending meetings—and particularly a foreign meeting of the Surgical Travellers Club. Although he seldom spoke at such meetings, and rarely went into print, he was a most able surgeon with a vast knowledge of his subject, and with a clarity of mind which made his teaching invaluable to many generations of students. It is difficult to imagine the hospital scene in Bristol without the occasional presence of Douglas Tasker.

To Mrs. Tasker and to their son, Alan, we would extend our real sympathy.—R. V. C., H. L. S., and G. M. F.

R. H. CAMPBELL, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.

Dr. R. H. Campbell, a former consulting surgeon to the Southend-on-Sea group of hospitals, and later surgeon to Paignton and District Hospital, died in Paignton on 24 December. He was 86.

Robert Harold Campbell was born on 17 March 1881, and received his medical education at Glasgow University and the London Hospital, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1902, and taking the F.R.C.S. in 1910. After holding early appointments at the London Hospital and Mildmay Mission Hospital he became consultant surgeon to Queen Mary Hospital, Roehampton, before being appointed surgeon to Southend General and Southend Municipal Hospitals, later becoming consultant. During the second world war he moved to Paignton, and in addition to carrying on a busy practice there he became surgeon to Paignton and District Hospital. A member of the British Medical Association, he was secretary of the Folkestone Executive Committee in 1911 and chairman of the South Essex Division in 1939–40.

J. F. B. writes: I knew Bobbie Campbell well, having acted as his part-time assistant from 1946 for nine years and on many

occasions given anaesthetics for him at Paignton and District Hospital. His activities were numerous, and I remember him in his late sixties and seventies for the extraordinary vigour and zest which he displayed. Apart from being one of the main props of Paignton's surgical service for several years and running a busy general practice, he also was a church warden and cellist in an orchestra. He kept a boat, was actively interested in photography and gardening, and always had patience and a merry word for everyone.

After the inception of the National Health Service, and having been officially retired from his surgical labours on account of his age, he continued to do emergency work to sustain the local service for some years in his old unpaid honorary capacity, until the regional board reallocated him some sessions for a further term. He never grumbled, and, though he tired with age and illness recently, he was nevertheless his bright and interested self when I last had tea with him a few weeks ago, and was "the life and soul of the party" on the evening of his death. Numerous old patients will be saddened to hear that he is gone, and I mourn the passing of a dear friend.

W. T. ROWE, M.C., T.D., M.D., M.R.C.P.

Dr. W. T. Rowe, formerly senior physician to the General Hospital, Nottingham, died on 17 December after a long illness. He was 92.

William Trethowan Rowe was born on 30 December 1874 at Constantine, Cornwall, and was educated at Chelmsford Grammar School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, qualifying with the Conjoint diploma in 1897. He graduated M.B., B.S. in 1901, and a year later proceeded M.D. and was awarded the gold medal. After two years' resident appointments in his teaching hospital and at the West London Hospital he volunteered for service in the Boer War, and sailed for South Africa in 1899 as a civil surgeon to the Imperial Forces. He was present at the relief of Mafeking in 1900. He returned to England in 1902, having been awarded the Queen's Medal for South Africa with four clasps. He then set up in general practice in Nottingham. In 1906 he was elected to the honorary consulting staff of the General Hospital, where he remained until his retirement—as senior physician—in 1946. In 1905 he joined the South Nottinghamshire Hussars as surgeon-lieutenant. During the first world war he served with the rank of major, first at Gallipoli—where he was awarded the M.C. and bar—and afterwards in France. A member of the British Medical Association, he was a representative at the Annual Meeting in 1906, chairman of the Nottingham Division in 1925–6, in which year he was also honorary secretary of the section of medicine at the Annual Meeting, and in 1927–8 president of the Midland Branch. During the second world war he was appointed group officer in charge of arrangements for the receipt of convoys in Nottingham.

Dr. Rowe was a "character." He had a transparent honesty, and the gift of inspiring in his patients supreme confidence. The nursing staff of the hospital were devoted to him, and he was kindness itself to hospital residents, and, because of this, before the second world war a number of his house-physicians stayed for several years. He was probably the last of that type of practitioner who, although in general practice, also served on the staff of a large general hospital and had a big consulting practice. He had no false pride, and was quick to call for a second opinion from a fellow, and often younger, consultant.

His was a well-known figure, being driven in a smart, always open, two-seater coupé, wearing a buttonhole supplied daily by a grateful patient. After retiring from the hospital staff he continued in practice in spite of increasing pain and disability from a severely arthritic hip. He was an active Mason, having been initiated in the Nottinghamshire Lodge in 1913. He was a keen golfer, and in 1934 was captain of the Nottinghamshire Golf Club.

His only son, also a doctor, died in 1965. He is survived by his daughter—the wife of

Dr. J. H. Francis—to whom is tendered widespread sympathy.—P. H. O'D.

**W. E. C. ASTLE, M.A., M.B., B.CHIR.  
D.M.R.D.**

Dr. W. E. C. Astle, consultant radiologist to the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, died in a car accident on 3 October. He was 45.

William Ernest Charles Astle was born on 12 April 1922, and was educated at Rydal School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. For his clinical studies he went to St. George's Hospital, London, graduating M.B., B.Chir. in 1947, afterwards holding house appointments in medicine and surgery at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary. After a period of service in the Royal Air Force he went to Liverpool, and in 1952 took the D.M.R.D. of England and Liverpool, and held a number of appointments in this specialty in the Liverpool United Hospitals. In 1956 he returned to the Potteries as a consultant radiologist, which appointment he held at the time of his death.

Bill was a man of many interests, and had a very inquisitive mind. No amount of time or trouble was too much in order to solve a problem, be it medical or otherwise. On any subject he professed to understand his views were worth having. He enjoyed a number of hobbies. Machinery fascinated him, and undoubtedly he would have made as good an engineer as he was a radiologist. He was also a very keen gardener, and recently had become interested in restoring old furniture. Having tried at one time or another most sports, he found sailing most to his liking.

He will be missed by many friends at St. George's and in Liverpool, which became his second home. Most of all he will be missed by his friends and colleagues in North Staffordshire. We extend our sympathy to his wife and two sons.—F. G. A.

**D. G. ALLEN, M.A., M.B., B.CHIR.**

Dr. D. G. Allen, in general practice in Streat-ham, and medical officer to the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, died at his home on 22 December at the age of 57.

David Gilbert Allen was born on 29 October 1910, and was educated at Malvern College, at Queens' College, Cambridge, and at King's College Hospital, London, where he gained the Jelf medal and other prizes. He graduated M.B., B.Chir. in 1935 and took the Conjoint diploma in the same year. After house appointments at King's in medicine, paediatrics, and neurology he entered general practice in Streatham with Dr. Hudson. During the second world war he left the practice to his partner and turned to anaesthetics, soon becoming expert and working at Kingston Hospital, Leatherhead E.M.S. Hospital, and, later, at Moorfields. At Leatherhead he also took charge of paraplegic patients, both military and civilian, and Dr. (now Sir) Ludwig Guttmann quickly recognized his skill in caring for these difficult cases. After the war he returned to his practice, but also took charge of the paraplegic unit at the Star and Garter Home, dealing not only with the

rehabilitation but also with the many family problems of his patients. He organized an annual expedition to the Derby, and one year he took a large party of paraplegics, with all their impedimenta, by air to the Olympic Games at Rome.

David Allen used his shrewd intelligence well in the service of his patients, but his many friends will remember him best as one who loved robust conversation and the company of his fellows. It was tragic when his Johnsonian wit was halted by laryngectomy, but he was talking again astonishingly soon, hoarsely but fluently, and encouraging other patients to speak. Although final cure was impossible, and he knew it, he continued to visit his ward at the Star and Garter as long as the journey could be made.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife and to his daughter, who is a medical student.—S. O. A. and S. G. C.

Sir LUDWIG GUTTMANN writes: With the death of David Allen many patients, in particular the spinal paralysed, have lost a devoted doctor and friend who for many years had their welfare at heart. It was during the second world war that David as a medical officer in charge of the spinal injuries unit at Leatherhead became involved in the treatment of spinal paraplegic soldiers. He was one of the first who, following a visit to Stoke Mandeville, accepted wholeheartedly the then new concept of the management of spinal-cord sufferers, and the excellent results he achieved in their rehabilitation made his unit one of the best wartime spinal units in this country. My personal relationship with David Allen developed into a warm friendship during the 21 years he worked after the war as part-time medical officer of the spinal unit at the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen in Richmond. He was of immense help to me in developing this unit, set up in 1946, on modern principles of rehabilitation—not an easy task in the early years of its development. His tenacity and toughness, mixed with a sometimes spicy sense of humour, was inspiration to his patients, and made it possible for the Star and Garter spinal unit to become within two years of its inception cofounder of the Stoke Mandeville Games for the Paralysed in 1948. David Allen's devotion to his patients and staff has earned him their gratitude and love, and those who were close to him will remember him as a loyal friend.

**T. MILLING, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.**

Dr. T. Milling, a general practitioner in Bristol, died on 10 December at his daughter's home in Co. Antrim. He was 75.

Thomas Milling was born on 6 March 1892 in Ballynahinch, Co. Down, and received his medical education at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1915. After a period as house-physician in the Municipal Fever Hospital, Purdysburn, he served during the first world war in the R.A.M.C. in France and Egypt. After demobilization, with the rank of captain, he took the D.P.H. in 1919, and entered into partnership with the late Dr. James Wallace in Bedminster, Bristol, where he remained in active practice until the onset of

his illness in the summer of 1967. In addition he was for a number of years honorary clinical assistant to the eye department of Bristol General Hospital. He always retained his interest in this specialty and was a member of the South-western Ophthalmological Society.

For many years he was a member of the executive committee and the Bristol and Bath Council of the British Medical Association. He was chairman of the Bristol Division in 1951–2 and member of the Representative Body from 1944 to 1956. He also served on the local medical committee. He was an active member of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society, becoming president in 1948, and giving as his presidential address a most entertaining and erudite discourse on the life of Edward Jenner. He was subsequently honoured by election as an honorary member. He was one of the founders of the Bristol and District Branch of the Ulster Association, and had the distinction of being elected president.

He was an enthusiastic member of the ancient Bristol Medical Reading Society from the time of his election in 1952 until the intervention of his illness. It could be said that his hobbies were medicine, people, and books. He was honoured and respected by his colleagues, and loved by his patients and his many friends in all walks of life.

Tom Milling was a good doctor and a good companion, and will be greatly missed.—A. G. H.

**S. CHANDER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.ED.  
D.M.R.T., D.M.R.D., F.F.R.**

Dr. Subhash Chander, senior registrar in radiology to the United Cambridge Hospitals, died suddenly on 11 November at the early age of 36.

Subhash Chander was born on 15 May 1931. His early academic career brought him honours in anatomy, a silver medal in forensic medicine, and a bronze medal in hygiene. He held scholarships for merit throughout his career. He graduated M.B., B.S.(Punjab) at Amritsar in 1953. After resident appointments in Amritsar and some experience of general practice he became a research assistant in the department of medicine of Punjab University. He took the M.R.C.P.Ed. examination in neurology in 1959, and then began the study of radiology. He took the D.M.R.T. of the Conjoint Board in 1961, the D.M.R.D. in 1962, and the Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists in 1964. He held appointments as registrar at the Sheffield National Centre for Radiotherapy and in the United Sheffield Hospitals, the Royal Free Hospital, and at King's College Hospital. After a brief term as assistant professor in radiology at the Punjab State Medical College at Chandigarh, India, he was appointed senior registrar to the United Cambridge Hospitals in 1964.

His early interest was in paediatric medicine, and he did some valuable research work into acute rheumatism. He maintained a close relationship with paediatrics throughout his working life, and children could always detect the warm personality which was often overlain by the shyness arising from his personal modesty. This modesty could have

made it easy to overlook his very great ability which stemmed from a retentive memory, a quick mind, and tremendous application, but no one who worked with him failed to appreciate his talent.

He is sorely missed by all his many friends.—T. H.

#### G. R. KENNEDY, M.B., CH.B.

Dr. G. R. Kennedy, formerly in general practice at Claverley, near Wolverhampton, died on 16 November after a period of failing health. He was 66.

George Rollo Kennedy was born in East Wemyss, Fifeshire, on 23 August 1901. He was educated at George Watson's College and the University of Edinburgh, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1924. The following year he set up in general practice at Claverley. In addition to his practice he held an appointment as medical officer to the old people's institution at Trysall, and was chairman of the medical board of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. During the second world war he was a senior medical officer in the Home Guard. He also served the local community as chairman of Claverley Parish Council and member of the Bridgnorth Rural District Council. During his years in office the village obtained new housing, sanitation, and transport.

Dr. Kennedy was dedicated to his work, and maintained a cheerful and understanding attitude towards his patients, who regarded him as their personal friend. He found relaxation in riding, boating, modelling, and architecture. Of a friendly and hospitable disposition, he was always ready to guide friends and colleagues in times of difficulty.

He will be sadly missed. To his wife, Mary, and three children we extend our deep sympathy.—F. S.

#### FLORA M. HENDERSON, M.B., CH.B.

Dr. Flora M. Henderson (née Stewart), a general practitioner at Pitlochry, Perthshire, died in the Irvine Memorial Hospital, Pitlochry, on 26 November after a long illness. She was 66.

Flora Margaret Stewart was born in Edinburgh on 14 December 1900. She was educated at St. George's School and Edinburgh University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1922. After holding various house appointments, including one as house-surgeon to the late Sir John Fraser, she devoted herself to the study of psychiatry, first in Edinburgh and later in America. Her American studies were interrupted by a stay in a mission hospital in India for two years. In 1932 she took the diploma in psychiatry, and later worked in the child guidance clinic at the Liverpool Hospital. She married Dr. John M. Henderson in 1935. On the outbreak of the second world war she returned to Leek in Staffordshire to practise psychiatry. Later she joined the R.A.M.C. On demobilization she came to Pitlochry, where her husband had acquired a general practice.

Her interest in medicine—and especially in psychiatry—did not cease, and for 12 years she was a member of the Perthshire board of mental hospitals. Her charming and cheerful personality endeared her to the

people of her adopted district, and she served Pitlochry on many public bodies. She was an ardent church member, and had a lifelong passion for music. She had been a member of the Edinburgh Choral Union for many years. Her courage and fortitude were demonstrated to a fine degree during the long painful illness of the past six months.—J. C. S.

#### J. PHILLIPS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. J. Phillips, a general practitioner in Carmarthenshire for over fifty years, died on 26 November, at the age of 95.

John Phillips was born at St. Clears, Carmarthenshire, on 9 January 1872, and received his medical education at University College, London, qualifying with the Conjoint diploma in 1895. He settled in general practice in St. Clears, where he built up a large practice over a wide agricultural area. In 1924–5 he was chairman of the South-west Wales Division of the British Medical Association. During the second world war, after his three partners had left to serve in the R.A.M.C., he ran the whole practice on his own. This was no mean achievement, as he was 70 years old and the area he served was 200 square miles in extent. He retired shortly after the war.

John Phillips was a man of sterling character, and an outstanding general practitioner. He was much loved by his patients and by his colleagues.

He is survived by a daughter and by a son who is a member of the medical profession.—H. L. P.

#### G. L. ROBERTS, M.B., CH.B., B.D.S. F.D.S. R.C.S., F.F.D. R.C.S.I.

J. G. M. writes: Although formal teaching in dentistry began in Sheffield (in the Royal Hospital) in 1895, and although a dental department of the Medical School was established in 1900, and the University obtained powers to grant degrees and a diploma in dental surgery in 1922, the creation of the Sheffield Dental School as we know it today certainly owes more to Professor Roberts (obituary, 30 December, p. 808) than to any other man, and his sudden and totally unexpected death has dealt it a heavy blow. Nevertheless, one has the impression that, since Roberts knew that he was in any case due to retire in 1969, he felt that his chief contribution to Sheffield University (of which he had reason to be immensely proud) had already been made, that the dental school was approaching a climacteric, and that internal rearrangements, and perhaps a change in methods of government (which he had already begun to foresee), should follow his retirement. While, therefore, his early and sudden death has come as a grievous shock to all his very numerous colleagues and friends, it could be that his enduring monuments, the modern Sheffield Dental School and the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital (opened in 1953), were already nearly fully fashioned, and that the more tragic loss lies in the premature termination of the contribution which Roberts had been making, increasingly over recent years, to dental education and administration at national and international levels.

Of Roberts's professional skill, and the part that he played in dental education and organization through his many examinerships in other universities and for the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England and of Edinburgh, and his membership (often as chairman) of very numerous committees and associations, others will no doubt write elsewhere. I shall mention only such important matters as his appointment, from 1965 onwards, as consultant adviser in dental surgery to the Ministry of Health, and as a member of the standing dental advisory committee. He sat on the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board from 1947 until 1959, and again from 1963 until his death, serving on many of the Board's committees, and especially as chairman of the dental advisory committee. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the United Sheffield Hospitals from 1948 to 1967, again serving on many committees and as chairman of the dental advisory committee. Following the Dentists Act of 1957 Roberts became the representative of the University of Sheffield on the General Dental Council created by the Act. Again he was a member of several of that council's chief committees, and he was chairman of the Ancillary Dental Workers Committee. A member of the Board of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England from 1954 onwards, he had served as vice-dean in 1963–4. He was president of the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine for 1962–3.

Professor Roberts married in 1939 Joyce Spring-Rice Smith, of Rothley, Leicestershire. She survives him with two sons, one an architect and one (already dentally qualified) in the later stages of his medical course. To all three their many friends tender respectful sympathy.

E. K. B. writes: The sudden and tragic death of Laurie Roberts (obituary, 30 December, p. 808) at the height of his powers has robbed dentistry of an outstanding figure. Professor Roberts, however, never lost his interest in medicine as a whole since his early days in Liverpool. Indeed, he was guide, philosopher, and friend to generations of medical students and doctors in the Sheffield Medical School. An able man of untiring energy and kindly interest, his advice—always of the highest order—was sought frequently and given freely after due deliberation. He played a major part in the development of haematology in Sheffield for over 20 years, being the prime mover in the happy liaison between that speciality and dentistry. His interest in disorders of the blood, and possibly especially in haemophilia, had been fostered many years previously. Always believing strongly in the closest co-operation between the dental and medical professions for the benefit of patients and their advisers, Laurie Roberts was delighted to see one of his wishes fulfilled in recent years. This was the inclusion of a dental section in *North Wing*, the magazine of the Sheffield University Medical School. Needless to relate, he played the leading role in this successful development. He will be sorely missed by all in the Sheffield Medical School.

A memorial service for Dr. J. F. MacMahon will be held at Manor Hospital, Epsom, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 January.