

## Obituary

### SIR ARTHUR HURST

A fellow pilgrim writes:

Although it was not my good fortune to know Arthur Hurst in the days of his greatest activity, I have had the privilege of his friendship now for a number of years. His was a rare and delightful personality. His gifts, which were truly remarkable, he used unsparingly and with unflagging energy in the advancement of medical knowledge, in teaching and inspiring others in "the research and study of the secrets of Nature by way of experiment," and, again following the precepts of Harvey, in promoting "mutual love and affection among physicians." Hurst had the internationalism of medicine much at heart, and in 1928 led a small company of physicians on the first of a long series of annual pilgrimages to foreign medical schools. On these occasions he was seen at his best and happiest. An excellent linguist, he was familiar with the best Continental literature and the work of the best men. He was warmly welcomed wherever he went and gave many lectures on his own subject, using French or German with equal felicity. His fellow pilgrims will long treasure the memory of these delightful visits under his leadership.

Hurst was no specialist, and his interests and many contributions to medical literature covered a wide range of subjects. Of gastroenterology he was an acknowledged master with a world-wide reputation, and his original studies of intestinal function by means of radiology, his work on visceral sensation, and his conception of an ulcer diathesis, have laid the foundations of modern gastro-enterology. He was largely instrumental in founding in 1937 the Gastro-Enterological Club of Great Britain and became its first president.

Great though his gifts were, and enduring as much of his work will be, it was his courage, his fortitude in overcoming the adversities of physical handicap and ill-health, which endeared him most to those who knew him best. No complaint ever fell from his lips. He accepted his burden and made light of it, so that even the frequent episodes of infirmity were taken for granted. They seemed to spur him to ever greater efforts, and like Wordsworth's happy warrior, he "turned his necessity to glorious gain." But it had been only too evident of late that his strength was slowly failing. The evening before his death he was one of a small group of younger men, and, though gravely handicapped, dominated the company, as was his wont, with incisive comment and argument in a discussion as to the most important advances in medicine during recent years. On the morrow he worked at an autobiography which he had long been writing, and the end came peacefully while he was engaged on this congenial task. Arthur Hurst died as he would have wished, at work, his fine intellect undiminished after a full life lived to much purpose. A great physician, a brilliant teacher, and a most lovable man, his death will occasion widespread sorrow, his life deep thankfulness.

Dr. Alex. Patton writes:

May I add a humble tribute to the memory of a great genius? In a world where so many able teachers fail to transmit even ideas of value, William Osler and Arthur Hurst—heard once only across the years—remain as an abiding beacon of charm and lucidity. So often a babel, and not only in Aesculapian counsel, the English language becomes in the hands of these rare spirits a beautiful garment to clothe refulgent thought.

The death of DOUGLAS ASHLEY MITCHELL, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.S.Ed., as the result of a motor collision is little short of disastrous to Bath and district. He had worked as specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist since 1930, when a special gynaecological and obstetric department was formed in the Royal United Hospital largely as the result of his enterprise and enthusiasm. Two years later arrangements were made for the city maternity hospital service to be centred in the Royal United Hospital under the general direction of Mitchell and his staff. During the last war Douglas Mitchell served with the Royal Navy, retiring with the rank of lieutenant-commander, and then took up general practice at Midsomer Norton. He soon found his special interest and moved to Bath. A member of the B.M.A. since 1911, he served as chairman of the Bath Division during 1936-7. He was elected to Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1933 and was the author of several articles in the medical journals. He made himself universally beloved by all his colleagues and by a large circle of patients, and his loss will be mourned throughout the district as that of a close personal friend.—R. G. G.

We regret to record the death by enemy action of Dr. LUTHER JAMES SOUTTER. His eldest son, Ian, a medical student, was killed on the same occasion, and his wife was

injured. Dr. Soutter was born on Dec. 13, 1898, the son and grandson of doctors. From Tollington School he entered Westminster Hospital with a scholarship, and won several prizes on his way to graduating M.B., B.S.Lond. in 1922. After working as house-physician and house-surgeon at the Westminster he took over his father's practice at Highbury and quickly gained the regard and admiration of his patients. In addition to his many professional duties he played a prominent part in A.R.P. work in the borough of Hornsey, where he was medical officer of a mobile unit; he will be sadly missed among the Civil Defence personnel of the borough. A congregation of some 700 colleagues, friends, and patients attended the funeral service at Highbury Quadrant Church. Dr. G. F. Rigden, Hornsey A.R.P. medical officer, in a high tribute paid to his colleague in the local newspaper, has written: "The Hornsey mobile units, largely owing to Dr. Soutter's energy and foresight, were pioneers at working at the incident immediately after it occurred, work which was not their original function but which has now been generally adopted and recognized as invaluable."

News has reached this country of the death on June 25 in Victoria, British Columbia, of Dr. IVAN WILLIAM MACKINNON, who had been a member of the B.M.A. since the year in which the Association held its Annual Meeting at Winnipeg. Dr. MacKinnon studied medicine in Montreal and Edinburgh; he graduated M.D., C.M. of McGill University in 1902 and took the Scottish triple qualification in 1906. He had been house-physician to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, and house-surgeon and senior clinical assistant to the London Throat Hospital; and during the last war he served with the rank of captain, R.A.M.C. (T.). For some little time before the present war he had made voyages as a ship surgeon.

## The Services

Temp. Surg. Lieut. A. Finlayson, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches for great skill and devotion to duty in the care of survivors from ships which were sunk on the hazardous passage to North Russia.

Temp. Surg. Lieut. E. Fowler, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches. This name appears in a list of awards for outstanding courage, skill and devotion to duty in certain of H.M. ships in action with German destroyers.

Acting Wing Cmdr. R. H. Winfield, A.F.C., R.A.F.O., has been awarded the D.F.C. in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

Capt. (Temp. Major) J. G. Reid, R.A.M.C., has been appointed M.V.O. (Fourth Class).

The *London Gazette* has announced the following appointments, awards, and mentions in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy:

*C.B.E. (Military Division).*—Brig. (Temp.) S. Arnott, D.S.O., late R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. (acting Col.) C. H. Playfair, O.B.E., R.C.A.M.C.

*O.B.E. (Military Division).*—Col. E. C. Beddows, M.C., late R.A.M.C.; Col. (Acting) J. W. Hirst, T.D.; Col. (Temp.) C. E. Eccles; Lieut.-Col. F. A. Roddy; Majors (Temp. Lieut.-Cols.) W. C. Alford, R. Armstrong, J. A. Binning, G. W. Crimmin, A. L. d'Abreu, I. D. Easton, C. D. Evans, J. L. Gordon, F. H. Hollingshead, A. M. Hughes, M.C., T.D., W. H. M. Jones, T.D., F. P. L. Lander, W. D. F. Lytle, A. S. Pern, T.D., R. W. Scott, E. J. Selby, R. W. D. Turner, and R. B. Wright, R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. R. C. Dickson, R.C.A.M.C.

*M.B.E. (Military Division).*—Capt. (Temp. Major) J. B. Barr, W. R. West-Watson, G. Blackburn, C. D. P. Jones, R. Kauntze, D. G. Liversedge; Capt. G. H. M. Hemsted, A. Henderson, and A. E. O'Donnell, R.A.M.C.; Capt. M. S. R. Rao, I.A.M.C.

*D.S.O.*—Capt. (Temp. Major) F. J. O'Dowd, I.A.M.C.

*M.C.*—Capt. J. G. Macarthur, R. J. N. Pellow, W. H. Lang, T. McCarrroll, and L. J. Samuels; Lieuts. F. H. Leckie, and T. Notman, R.A.M.C.; Capt. F. Martin, R.C.A.M.C.; Capt. H. L. Bhatia, I.A.M.C.

*Mentioned in Dispatches.*—Major-Gen. (Acting) R. W. Galloway, C.B.E., D.S.O.; Brig. (Temp.) W. P. Croker; Majors (Temp. Lieut.-Cols.) W. C. Alford, H. Allan, M.C., W. M. Capper, R. W. Hendry, and D. T. Swift; Capt. (Temp. Major) J. W. L. Bain, H. J. Bell, H. W. Burge, D. J. Campbell, S. Carter, H. J. Croghan, V. Downie, M.C., P. R. Evans, T. D. W. Fryer, C. C. Hurst, J. Irvine, D. B. Jagger, T. G. S. James, J. G. Jamieson, J. W. Litchfield, R. B. Robertson, M.B.E., J. McL. Ross, C. V. Salisbury, V. A. J. Swain, N. G. G. Talbot, E. Townsend, M.C., W. S. Tulloch, and R. H. Webber; Capt. K. M. Bell, A. M. Brown, N. C. Coombs, F. H. Counihan, J. Cumming, J. S. Davidson, T. C. H. Davies, W. A. Dewar, F. R. Duggan, S. M. Gill, J. G. Gow, C. J. Hodson, H. J.