

Obituary

Dr. CHARLES LESLIE MASON, who died in London on August 10 at the age of 59 after a short illness, was born in London in 1893, the son of the late Dr. J. W. Barron Mason, who died in 1930. He was educated at Epsom College and at St. Mary's Hospital, qualifying L.M.S.S.A. in 1922. After holding house appointments at St. Mary's Hospital he settled in general practice in the Regent's Park district of London. A member of the British Medical Association, he represented his constituency at the Annual Representative Meeting on several occasions, and had been a member of the executive committee of the St. Pancras Division. He is survived by his widow, Dr. Dorothy E. Mason, to whom our sympathy is extended.

Dr. E. A. GREGG writes: The tragically sudden death of Dr. C. L. Mason has taken from us a most beloved colleague. His loss is deplored not only in St. Pancras and north-west London but also throughout the whole country. His outstanding service as chairman of the local medical committee and on the London Executive Council alone would be enough to indicate the debt the practitioners of London owe him. He went far outside this work, and gave himself freely to hospital management committee work and to a host of other commitments—L.C.C. committees, school medical service, nursing committees, and many others. He was quiet and reserved, thoughtful, and wise, and never put himself forward, but his wise counsel and sterling worth soon marked him out for positions of responsibility and leadership. He came of a medical family and inherited the highest ideals of our profession. How well he developed and exemplified these in his own life and work. Devotion to duty and loyalty to his profession were the foundations on which he built. He was urged to allow his name to go forward for election to the borough council, and he gave himself with the same earnestness and devotion to his public work that characterized all that he did. More exalted positions awaited him, and his untimely death has robbed not only his profession but the public life of the borough of one we could ill afford to lose. His place will be very hard to fill, and his memory will remain an inspiration to all of us. It may well and truthfully be said of him that he was "one who never turned his back but marched breast forward."

By the death of Dr. A. S. L. BIGGART at Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire, on June 22 in his 72nd year, after only a short retirement from active practice, his colleagues in West Hartlepool have lost a friend who had been one of the most active supporters of the British Medical Association in the north of England. Arnold Samuel Longbotham Biggart was born in 1880, the son of the first medical officer to the port of Hartlepool, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1904. After a period of hospital appointments and travel abroad as a ship surgeon, he joined his father in practice in 1906. He was a good type of family doctor who, by hard work and an excellent knowledge of medicine, built up one of the most successful practices in the Hartlepoons. During his many years in practice he worked often without any regard to his own health, and his knowledge and sound common sense enabled him to give help and advice to many even outside his medical work. He represented the Hartlepoons for many years at the Annual Panel Conference and was for 25 years the chairman of the local panel committee. After the war of 1914-18 it was mainly through his efforts that interest in the Hartlepoons Division of the British Medical Association was re-awakened, and he was active in promoting both the scientific and the social sides of the Division, of which he was chairman in 1922 and again from 1934 to 1936. He also represented his constituency at several Annual Representative Meetings of the Association. Dr. Biggart was medical officer to the Hartlepool port health authority from 1915 to 1948,

and from 1935 until his retirement in 1948 he was a physician on the staff of the Cameron Hospital and for many years a member of its management committee. Even during a busy professional life he found time to enjoy a round of golf. Always of a very cheerful nature and an excellent raconteur, one of his greatest pleasures was to spend an evening among his friends. He leaves a widow and three sons.

Dr. ALEXANDER KIRKHOPE, who died at his home at Harrogate on July 24 at the age of 67, was born at Carlisle, Lanarkshire, on October 5, 1886, and was educated at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1911. During the war of 1914-18 he served in the R.A.M.C., chiefly in Italy and France, being attached to the Royal Welch Fusiliers and to the Royal Flying Corps. In 1917, while still in the Army, he married Miss Margaret Swanson Paxton, of Airdrie, Lanarkshire. He settled in Harrogate in 1918, and practised there until his death. Dr. Kirkhope lived for his work. It occupied the greater part of his time and left him little leisure for outside interests, hobbies, or recreation. His reward was in the close and lasting friendships which he made with people of all descriptions whom he met in the course of his professional work. He leaves a widow.—G. N. B.

The death of Dr. ARTHUR TOWNSEND on August 2 will be regretted by a wide circle of those who knew him either as a colleague or as a physician. The son of a Birmingham specialist in ophthalmology, Arthur Allen Deykin Townsend was born in 1865, and studied medicine at Queen's and Mason Colleges, Birmingham, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1890. He took the degrees of M.B., B.Ch. of the University of Birmingham in 1901, and proceeded M.D. two years later. In 1904 he was awarded the bronze medal and prize of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Soon after qualifying Townsend was appointed a junior assistant medical officer to Barnwood House, Gloucester, the well-known hospital for nervous and mental disorders. Psychiatry made an instant and lasting appeal to him, partly perhaps as a result of serving with two remarkable men, Sir Frederick Needham and Dr. J. Greig Soutar. Townsend spent most of his professional life at Barnwood House, of which he became superintendent in 1919, and from which he did not retire until 1937. All who met him carried away an impression of kindly courtesy and deep sincerity. His clinical skill and sympathetic understanding earned for him a very high reputation among his patients and their relatives. Townsend's devotion to Barnwood House was remarkable. His constant thought was for the hospital and for the cure, comfort, and well-being of his patients. He was a ceaseless worker and set an inspiring example to all who served with him. His medical and nursing staff gave him a loyal service which was mingled with admiration and affection. Always modest, Townsend never sought publicity, and few people knew that he was offered more than one important post but preferred to remain with the hospital which he served so long and so faithfully. He made an almost perfect medical witness. Many will remember Townsend's part in the trial at Hereford Assizes in 1922 of Major H. R. Armstrong, who was found guilty of poisoning his wife and subsequently hanged. On that occasion Townsend was thanked by the judge for the clarity of his replies to questions and for his lucid explanation of the technical terms employed in the trial. A member of the British Medical Association for 58 years, Townsend acted as honorary secretary of the Section of Psychological Medicine at the Annual Meeting of the Association held at Cheltenham in 1901. To those privileged to be his friends Townsend was ever a charming and witty companion. A shrewd judge of horse-flesh, he delighted in a day's racing and was thrilled by every finish. He was exceptionally happy in his home life, and to be entertained by him and Mrs. Townsend was something to be enjoyed and to be treasured in the memory. At this time of bereavement the heartfelt sympathy of all who knew him will go out to Mrs. Townsend and to her two sons.

Dr. ANDREW ALEXANDER MCWHAN, who died suddenly at his home at Duns on August 6 at the age of 71, was born at Linlithgow on February 14, 1881, and was educated at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1906. Three years later he took the degree of B.Sc. in public health of the University and the D.P.H. of the English Royal Colleges. Dr. McWhan had had considerable war experience. He saw service in the South African war as a sergeant at a field hospital, and in the war of 1914-18 he served in the R.A.M.C. in Egypt with the 2nd Mounted Division, in Salonika with the 22nd Division, and in the Sinai Desert as technical adviser on water reconnaissance for the desert column, attaining the rank of major. For his services he was twice mentioned in dispatches. On his return to the United Kingdom he became deputy assistant director of medical services, Scottish Command. Dr. McWhan was medical officer of health and school medical officer for Berwickshire from 1911 to 1946, having been previously assistant medical officer of health and school medical officer for Fifeshire. A member of the British Medical Association for many years, Dr. McWhan was honorary secretary of the South-eastern Counties Division from 1923 to 1936, chairman of the Division from 1938 to 1940, and president of the Edinburgh Branch in 1934-5. He also represented his constituency at the Annual Representative Meetings of the Association in 1930, 1935, 1936, 1938, and 1941. Dr. McWhan was a member of the Scottish Council for Health Education, a member of the council of the Scottish branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and a Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Mr. CUTHBERT LOCKYER writes: Among the many facets of the working-day life of Dr. E. B. HULBERT (*Journal*, August 2, p. 289) I was surprised to find no mention of his being resident medical officer at the Florence Nightingale Hospital, where, in the days of Sir Lenthal Cheate, H. J. Paterson, H. S. Clogg, and Morley Fletcher, E. B. Hulbert and his parrot were great favourites.

Medico-Legal

HYPERSENSITIVITY TO MYODIL

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

On November 27, 1951, Kenneth Dodd, of Hexham, Northumberland, a platelayer aged 23, was admitted to Hexham General Hospital to be treated for sciatica which was believed, accurately, to be due to a prolapsed intervertebral disk. When he failed to improve with rest he had a plaster jacket fitted and was discharged. On February 5, 1952, he was readmitted and the jacket was removed, but pain occurred again and it was decided to investigate further with a view to operation.

Accordingly on February 14, 1952, 3 ml. of "myodil" was injected into the spinal canal. It was the normal recognized dose, and successful radiographs were taken, the dye having worked satisfactorily. On the morning of February 16, however, the patient complained of a headache, and was found to have stiffness of the back and neck. The appearance of a specimen of fluid taken from the spinal canal suggested either bacterial infection or chemical irritation of the spinal cord. On that day, therefore, 50,000 units of penicillin was injected into the spinal canal and some into the muscles. Next morning a further 200,000 units was injected. An hour later he became mentally confused and developed a series of epileptic fits, after two hours of which he died.

Dr. G. J. Laws, consultant pathologist to the Hexham General Hospital, who carried out the necropsy, found no bacterial inflammation and no trace of pus, and concluded that the cause of death was status epilepticus due to cerebral irritation caused by myodil and penicillin in an abnormally sensitive patient.

This is believed to be the first myodil fatality in Britain.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Congregation on July 19 the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—J. M. K. Spalding.

B.M.—M. J. A. Davies, P. J. R. Phizackerley, D. R. Oppenheimer, W. D. Hayley, R. T. H. Shepherd, M. A. Smith, M. S. Finn, D. G. H. Patey, R. M. Murray-Leslie, J. M. H. Brooks, A. T. N. Fletcher, R. A. Leake, F. C. C. Schwerdt, Viscount Suidale, E. D. R. Campbell, N. J. Carlile, R. M. Bannerman, J. W. P. Bradley, C. W. H. Havard, J. E. Cradock-Watson, D. H. Davies, J. C. MacLarnon, J. S. M. Mitchelson, R. L. Orcutt, G. D. Wilson, Carmen M. Rant, Eleonore Feldberg, Felicity C. Toussaint, *H. G. Klemperer, *H. N. Hardy.

The Mary Goodger Scholarship for 1952 has been awarded to Marianne Fillenz (Somerville College).

In Congregation on August 2 the degree of B.M. was conferred on C. T. M. Wilson and E. H. Jellinek.

The Radcliffe Scholarship in Pharmacology has been awarded to Roland David Stedeford (Worcester College).

*In absence.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Grants from the Pinsent-Darwin Reserve Fund have been made to Dr. Brian William Davy, junior health service officer of the Department of Human Ecology, and to Miss M. Reinhold, of the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C.

In Congregation on August 2 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—*J. S. Pegum, E. L. McDonald, D. R. Smith, G. S. Crockett, M. A. Floyer, K. N. V. Palmer.

M.B., B.CHIR.—*O. H. Watkins, *E. Wilkes, B. W. Broadhurst, P. S. Reay-Young, *P. A. J. Ball, *H. G. Britton, *S. McC. Cannicott, *H. Caplan, *R. H. Davison, *J. F. Newcombe, *C. Rashbass, *C. A. Sharples, *M. P. Siddons, I. M. Glynn, W. N. B. Parker, *N. W. Ashworth, *J. B. Chapman, *R. J. L. Davis, *D. S. Jeffery, *D. Wise, P. Griffiths, J. S. Lewis, J. M. Rigg, J. M. Simister, *O. H. French, *J. Innes, J. D. C. Anderson, R. J. Spray, *D. M. E. Allan, *R. R. A. Coles, *M. Dulake, *A. L. Hilton, *A. B. Lowther, *R. M. Standish-White, M. H. H. Bishop, T. F. Bushby, A. S. Cooper, J. E. Phillips, *M. K. Mead, *R. F. Warnock, *W. J. Colbeck, *J. I. W. Davies, *J. R. Edwards, *P. J. Lyne, *J. M. S. McCoy, *J. W. M. Stone, *D. H. Trapnell, *J. Watson-Farrar, R. Baxter, C. J. Booth, A. R. Butterfield, R. T. D. FitzGerald, J. H. Robson, G. M. Shaw, G. W. Smallcombe, C. M. Stafford, D. G. Thomas, *M. J. Boyle, *C. E. T. Cones, *E. P. Hilary-Jones, *M. F. R. Waters, J. H. Edwards, R. W. Ross Russell, G. I. Verney, *G. M. B. Bulman, *R. Mangnall, D. G. D. Vint, *I. C. Dow, *A. V. Dunlop, *T. W. Rayner, *J. H. Swallow, *J. S. H. Whitehead, *E. A. Wilson, D. Bryant, E. Hainsworth, *R. G. Daniels, *N. Gee, *P. J. McQuade, *R. L. Smith, *M. L. Thomas, *B. G. S. F. Vergano, T. Hall, *J. G. Davies, *G. C. Metcalfe, *F. V. Simpson, *W. Eade, *D. H. Kay, *J. Liddell, *R. Goldsmith, *R. C. Norton, *R. E. Wolfendale, A. W. Beard, *P. F. A. Crawshaw, *J. R. Flury, *J. M. A. Jepps, *J. S. H. Lodge, *J. H. Sewart, G. R. C. Campion, V. Sarma, *J. N. T. Evans, *D. S. Harry, *J. H. Jones, *R. J. Mather, *D. Harrett, *R. Harrison, *E. I. Kohorn, J. O. Ojukwu, Mrs. Kathleen M. Bennison, Hilary J. Shimmin, *Betty Chester, June E. Brett, Betty R. Corbin, *P. J. Dawson, *J. A. McHardy, E. M. Douglas, *H. W. S. Francis.

*By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The title of Professor Emeritus of Bacteriology in the University has been conferred on Professor S. P. Bedson, F.R.S., on his retirement from the Goldsmiths' Company's Chair of Bacteriology at the London Hospital Medical College which he has held since 1934.

The title of Professor Emeritus of Chemical Pathology in the University has been conferred on Professor J. R. Marrack on his retirement from the Chair of Chemical Pathology at the London Hospital Medical College which he has held since 1934.

The title of Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the University has been conferred on Cyril Arthur Keele, M.D., F.R.C.P., in respect of the post held by him at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School.