

Obituary

Captain ANTHONY ARTHUR HOBBS, R.A.M.C., who died at Benghazi, Cyrenaica, on October 8 of poliomyelitis, was born on January 1, 1926, and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1948. After qualification he became house-physician and anaesthetist at the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, Eastbourne, and later worked at the Halifax General Hospital from June, 1949, until December, 1950. In the following year he entered the R.A.M.C. as a lieutenant, becoming captain a year later, and was stationed at Benghazi at the time of his death. During his stay at Halifax he married Miss Jean Astin, a member of the staff of the General Hospital, and endeared himself to all his colleagues and a large circle of acquaintances by his charming personality and his joy of life, combined with a brilliant aptitude for his work as an anaesthetist. There was no doubt in the minds of his colleagues that his ability as an anaesthetist was outstanding, and everything pointed to his rapid advancement in the specialty. His loss is irreparable, and the shock of his death is still so acute that many of us cannot realize that he is indeed dead. Our sympathy goes out to his young wife and baby.—H. I. D.

South Wales members of the British Medical Association, especially the senior generation, will have heard with regret of the death in London on October 14, at the age of 86, of Dr. J. M. MORRIS, who was in his day a tower of strength to his professional brethren. John Mudie Morris was born at Edinburgh in 1866. After taking an arts degree in classics and philosophy at the University of Edinburgh he turned to the study of medicine and graduated M.B., C.M. in 1893. After some years in general practice, mainly in South Wales, he took the Cambridge D.P.H. in 1906, and thereafter public health became his life-work. He was a pioneer in infant-welfare work, and in 1920 he became full-time medical officer of health of Neath. By his very keenness and his forward vision he found himself frequently opposed by those in authority less advanced than himself, but he was a "bonny fechter" and a true progressive. In the war of 1914-18 he served as a captain in the R.A.M.C. and was in charge of the military hospital at Neath. On his retirement from his appointment as medical officer of health in 1940 his indefatigable temperament would not permit his being put on the shelf, and he became resident medical officer at Hensol Castle, an institution for mental defectives at Pontyclun, Glamorganshire. At the end of the war in 1945 he was freed from official duties, and, with his wife, he retired to London to be with his daughter, a distinguished graduate in science of Cambridge. He was justly proud of her achievements and those of his two sons, one of whom is Professor W. I. C. Morris, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in the University of Manchester, and the other Dr. Keith M. Morris, of Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride. All through his professional life Morris was an active and enthusiastic member of the B.M.A., and his tall gaunt figure was always looked for in professional gatherings. He served as joint honorary secretary of the Swansea Division from 1914 to 1923, and was president of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch in 1928-9. A faithful alumnus of his old university, he was a founder member of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch of the Edinburgh Graduates Association, and, true to the land of his birth, he was foremost in the activities of the Swansea and South Wales Caledonian Society, of which he was also a founder.

We are indebted to Dr. H. R. FREDERICK for the following appreciation: Morris's loyalty to the Association and the profession was well known. Uncompromising in his stand for what he believed to be right, he was often thought to be obstinate and difficult, but in reality he was a man who loved his fellow men, and with his keen sense of humour enjoyed twitting them for their shortcomings. Correspondence with Morris, mainly on postcards, and written in an angular

script, was a joy, and when deciphered revealed an unusual twist of language. A Scot of Scots, he was always a student, and even in retirement he was an enthusiastic participant in Workers' Educational Association classes in English literature and philosophy.

In view of the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. to be held at Cardiff next year it may be worth recalling that it was at Swansea in 1903 that the new constitution of the Association was introduced and where the first Annual Representative Meeting was held. There cannot, now, be many survivors of the first Representative Body besides the perennial Alfred Cox, but Morris recalled with interest his attendance at that meeting, although he was not present in any official capacity. In those years, in the early part of the century, local medical societies were active, and Morris was prominent in the affairs of the Swansea Society. His views were sometimes not those of the majority, but he retained the respect and admiration of those associated with him, both publicly and privately. In him I have lost a valued friend, and the profession one who served it faithfully and with devotion and integrity. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Morris, herself a native of Neath, and to her sons and daughter in their loss.

Dr. WILLIAM PEACH HAY, who died at Peterborough on October 17 in his 83rd year, was the son of the editor of the *Arbroath Guide*. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1891. During his final year as a medical student he went on a whaling expedition in the Arctic, and after graduating he entered the Colonial Medical Service, being appointed assistant surgeon at Lagos. His period in the Service completed, he then acted as an assistant in a Yorkshire mining practice for a short time until, in 1897, he settled at Peterborough, where he continued in active practice for the very long period of 54 years, until ill-health compelled his retirement last year. He lived to see an isolated railway community develop into a prosperous city. Dr. Peach Hay was a man of wide interests. Besides being a member of the board of management of the local hospital he was the first and only chairman of the Soke of Peterborough panel committee, throughout the life of which he represented the area at the annual Panel Conference. He was a keen supporter of the British Medical Association, being elected chairman of the Peterborough Division in 1936-7. Not only was he a founder 25 years ago, but he remained until his death as the only president of a very active local Caledonian Society. A deep scientific interest led him to membership of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh. Dr. Peach Hay was a true family doctor and was as welcome in the cottage as in the "big house." He loved his fellow man and he was the most lively and entertaining host. Kind and considerate to his colleagues, he was ever ready with friendly and sound advice. His recreations were varied and ranged from a true love of the theatre to the metal-worker's bench. He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters, to whom we extend our sympathy in their loss.—J. I. W.

We record with regret the death of Dr. EDMUND KEAN at Dover on October 24 at the age of 60. Edmund Kean was born on August 1, 1892, the eldest son of the late Dr. Thomas Kean, of the Aran Islands, off the coast of Galway. He studied medicine at the National University of Ireland, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1916, and he took the D.P.H. in 1931. In the war of 1914-18 Dr. Kean served in the R.A.M.C., and after the cessation of hostilities he transferred to the Indian Medical Service, later becoming senior medical officer at Bushire, in Persia. Altogether he served some 20 years in India and the Middle East. On his return to this country in 1932 he became deputy medical officer to the Port of London Authority, and three years later he was appointed port medical officer at Dover. In the last war he served in the R.A.M.C. from 1939 to 1943, when he was obliged to relinquish his commission on

account of ill-health. In 1950 he was appointed a medical inspector of aliens. A sound naturalist, Dr. Kean compiled a rat and flea index of the Port of London, a work which at the time was considered to be of importance, but being of a modest and retiring nature he asked that his name should not be published in connexion with it.

Dr. ALEXANDER MAITLAND EASTERBROOK, a well-known and highly respected Midlothian practitioner, who died at Eskbank, Dalkeith, on October 25, aged 83, was born at Dalkeith on November 1, 1868, and was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and at Dulwich College, where he was captain of the rugby second XV. After a distinguished career at the University of Edinburgh, where he won a Grierson bursary in chemistry, botany, and zoology and the James Scott scholarship in midwifery and gynaecology, he graduated M.B., C.M., with first-class honours, in 1893. He then became house-physician to the late Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and this appointment was followed by a resident post at the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital. With such a record there was more than one path in the field of medicine he might have followed, but he chose general practice and entered into partnership with, and later succeeded, the late Dr. William Spalding at Gorebridge, Midlothian, the centre of an extensive country and mining district. For about 44 years he worked in this area, gaining the respect and affection of his patients, who subscribed towards a public presentation when he retired from practice in 1937. He took a prominent part in local affairs, and after the 1914-18 war it was chiefly under his guidance that the money locally subscribed for a war memorial was utilized to found the Gorebridge District Nursing Association. Dr. Easterbrook took a deep interest in the work of the British Medical Association, acting as honorary secretary of the Lothians Division from 1911 to 1917 and as chairman of the Division from 1909 to 1911 and in 1937-8. He was also president of the Edinburgh Branch from 1932 to 1934. During the prolonged discussions with the Government over the conditions of work and payment under the National Insurance Act of 1911, and when every effort was being made to increase the membership of the Association, he worked untiringly, and was mainly responsible for bringing the membership in Midlothian up to full strength. For several years he was the representative of the Lothians Division at the Annual Meetings of the Association, and he went to Melbourne when the B.M.A. held its Annual Meeting there in 1935. He was a member of the Midlothian panel committee from the date of its inception till he retired. Another important body on which he served was the Scottish Colliery and Public Works Surgeons' Committee, which was composed chiefly of delegates from every colliery area in Scotland. Before the formation of this committee the contract rates of payment for medical attendance on the workers' dependants were arranged locally by districts and varied in different areas: after the committee's establishment a flat rate of payment at all collieries was introduced, an arrangement which proved highly satisfactory to doctors and workmen alike. The committee, which did excellent work, was automatically dissolved in 1948 on the introduction of the National Health Service. Dr. Easterbrook was one of a family of brothers all of whom made their mark in life, perhaps the most distinguished being the late Dr. C. C. Easterbrook, who was physician-superintendent of the Crichton Royal Institution from 1908 to 1937. He died in 1949. Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Easterbrook celebrated their golden wedding in 1950. He is survived by his widow, two sons, and two daughters, one of whom is a doctor.—J. McK.

The recent death of Dr. H. F. NORTHEY in London after an operation has robbed Northern Ireland of one of its outstanding medical practitioners. Hector Francis Northey was born at Belfast on January 2, 1905, and was educated

at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and at Queen's University, Belfast. After graduating M.B., B.Ch. in 1930 he was appointed resident medical officer to the Belfast Infirmary, and then he settled at Helen's Bay, County Down, where he conducted an extensive practice throughout the north of County Down, being loved by all his patients for his skill, his kindness, and his gentle manner. His appointment as a J.P. to the local bench was a mark of the regard in which he was held by the community. He took the D.P.H. in 1939, and during the war he was medical officer to a coastal battery and a prisoner-of-war camp. He was also medical officer to the County Down Branch of the British Red Cross Society. A keen sportsman, he took a great interest in yachting, golf, and rugby football. He was honorary secretary of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club, a member of the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club, and of the Royal Belfast and Helen's Bay golf clubs. His failing health in recent years must have been a sore trial to him, and only his devoted wife knew how great an effort he had to make in order to continue his work. The deep sympathy of his fellow practitioners, who have lost a trusted and a helpful colleague, goes out to her at this time.—H. H. C.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Accommodation for Mental Defectives

Mr. BERNARD BRAINE on November 5 drew attention to the shortage of accommodation for mental defectives. Institutions in England and Wales accommodated some 49,000 defectives, while of the 8,000 awaiting admission half were children. Many children remained on the waiting-list for years. The earlier the training of high-grade defectives began the quicker and better the results, but too often children were not admitted until it was too late for anything to be done for them. The problem of accommodation was growing. One institution in Essex should house 1,443 patients; it had nearly 1,700 and a waiting-list of 543, most of whom were children. The numbers on this waiting-list had grown fivefold since the appointed day. Earlier ascertainment of a mentally defective condition was the main contributory cause to the growth of the problem. Three things were mainly required. The first was increased accommodation, the second more staff, and the third more voluntary workers to care for defectives outside the institutions. Insufficient elasticity was allowed to hospital management committees in the appointment and pay of their staff. It was wrong that a sister at a general hospital who was anxious to do mental deficiency nursing could receive only the pay of a probationer nurse if she transferred.

After Mrs. BRADDOCK had described the position in Liverpool, where there were 104 cases on the waiting-list, many having been there a long time, Miss HORNSBY-SMITH replied to the debate. She said the shortage of accommodation was serious, but 3,066 new beds in regional hospital board hospitals had been opened for mentally defective patients since the appointed day. In addition many unstaffed beds had been equipped, but the waiting-list had risen from 3,939 on the appointed day to 7,929 at the beginning of 1952. There were also 5,000 mentally deficient patients in mental hospitals who should be in mental-deficiency institutions, besides children in homes and orphanages who also should be in institutions. The Ministry needed 15,000 additional beds for mental defectives. In the first years of the National Health Service regional hospital boards had not all paid as much attention to this side of their medical responsibilities as to others, but the average percentage of hospital capital expenditure allocated for mental treatment and mental-deficiency treatment had risen from 19.8% of total capital expenditure in 1951 to 26.1% in 1951-2. For mental-deficiency treatment alone the proportion of capital expenditure allotted in 1950-1 was 7.1%; in 1951-2