



Margaret S M McGregor

## MARGARET S M MCGREGOR MD, DPH

Margaret McGregor began studying medicine at the unusually early age of 16 and graduated at the age of 21. She then did research on epidural anaesthesia in Glasgow before becoming a research bacteriologist at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, attempting to characterise and improve early antibiotics. The excitement of such research was something that she was able to pass on in later life to interest young people in science and medicine. An enduring memory is of her botany "expeditions" with grandchildren in tow as they squelched through bogs and streams in Wellingtons and haversacks, books and plant samples in hand.

In Aberdeenshire she worked first at the Rowett Institute and then helped to establish the family planning clinic for the north east of Scotland at Woolmanhill Hospital, Aberdeen. She also became an assistant medical officer of health for Aberdeen, and conducted mother and baby clinics; she enjoyed her work passionately.

Her other life's interest was the arts—painting, music, and especially literature. An early contributor to the *North East Review*, she wrote many talks and short stories and a play, *Portrait of a Grandmother*, for the BBC. The mainstay of her literary output was poetry, and a collected volume of her poems, *On the Hill of Marcus and Other Poems of the North East*, was published in 1977. In 1938 she married Alexander Douglas McGregor, who shared her cultural and literary interests. After the second world war they spent a period in Greece, where he was attached to the British military mission, but they then returned to Aberdeenshire. They were most entertaining hosts.

Margaret held strong views on the duties of a doctor and medical ethics and was always prepared to defend them in public even though they might not be popular. She had a warm personality and a great store of compassion for suffering. She is survived by her husband; three children, Douglas, Rob, and Griselda; and four grandchildren.—SG, DRM.

*Margaret Sarah Milne McGregor (née Reid), formerly an assistant medical officer of health for Aberdeen, died 19 June. Born 22 December 1904; educated Aberdeen High School, Aberdeen University (MB, ChB 1926). Previous appointments in Glasgow and Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London.*

## G EDWARDS

MRCS, LRCP, FCANAES, DA

George Edwards was appointed staff anaesthetist to St George's Hospital in 1931 at the early age of 30. At that time few realised the importance of efficient anaesthetic services and of teaching anaesthesia to students. With these objects in view the school appointed him director of anaesthetic studies and lecturer in anaesthesia, offices in which he continued until his retirement in 1962. Under his direction St George's became a centre of excellence for teaching on anaesthesia. All staff, incidentally, became adept at mixing and administering Avertin (tribromoethyl alcohol), the basal narcotic that he popularised in the 1930s: records showed that Avertin accounted for a third of the general anaesthetics administered at St George's Hospital in 1938. In keeping with his advanced thinking he became one of the first members of the Association of Anaesthetists of

Great Britain and Ireland, taking its diploma examination in 1936.

During the war he served for a time in the Emergency Medical Service and then as adviser in anaesthetics, firstly to British north African forces and then to the central Mediterranean forces: his visits to anaesthetists in units throughout the war zone were an encouraging feature.

Returning to St George's after the war, he rapidly established the hospital once again as one of the country's leading training establishments. He emphasised scrupulous preoperative assessment, painstaking technique, and postoperative care. His introduction of a weekly postoperative teaching round was a memorable event in the student curriculum.

His additional consultant appointments were at the General Lying-In, Samaritan, Queen Charlotte's, and Royal Masonic Hospitals. President of the section of anaesthetics of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1945–6, he was a founder member of the Faculty of Anaesthetists, delivered the first Hewitt lecture (1950), and was subsequently made an honorary fellow. He delivered the inaugural John Snow memorial lecture to the Association of Anaesthetists in 1958, the 100th anniversary of Snow's death, giving a masterly description of Snow's life and work. He was chairman in 1956 of a committee appointed to investigate deaths associated with anaesthesia; its report highlighted the danger of vomiting under anaesthesia, which accounted for nearly one fifth of the deaths recorded.

George will be remembered for his keen wit, his remarkable memory, his interest in and knowledge of St George's, and above all his scholarship. He often solved the crossword in *The Times* at lunch without actually writing it down. As well as writing scientific papers he contributed articles to the medical school gazette on the history of the hospital and on former members of the medical staff. On his retirement in 1967 he was made honorary archivist to the hospital and reorganised the medical school's library. After full retirement his large, immaculate garden in Beaconsfield became a major interest. Latterly he and his wife, Jean, also a doctor, moved to Malvern. He is survived by Jean and their son, John.—SRT.H.

*George Edwards, formerly consultant anaesthetist at St George's Hospital and several other hospitals in London, died 8 June aged 88. Born 14 January 1901; educated Royal Grammar School, Worcester, and St George's Hospital Medical School (MRCS, LRCP 1926). Served in Royal Army Medical Corps during war as lieutenant colonel.*

## AGNES S O'BRIEN

MB, CHB

Agnes O'Brien—universally known as "Addis"—set up in general practice in Timperley in 1930 after her marriage to Donal O'Brien; she built up a thriving practice while bringing up her three children. During the war years she participated in the highly successful scheme whereby those who remained in general practice looked after the patients of colleagues on active service. After the introduction of the NHS she elected to remain in private practice, though she had a restricted list of NHS patients: she was medical officer of a local nursing home throughout her career until her retirement in 1975.

A member of the Guild of St Luke, St Cosmas, and St Damien, she played an active part in the local



G Edwards

*Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long; they should be sent within six months, and preferably within three months, of death. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.*



M J F McArdle

Charles O'Neill Medical Club, of which she was the first woman chairman in 50 years of the club's existence, in 1970-1. She was an unswerving Catholic and is survived by two daughters and a son.—ALT.

*Agnes Seaton O'Brien, who had been in private practice in Altrincham, died 4 July aged 88. Educated Loreto Convent, Manchester, and Manchester University (MB, ChB 1923). Previously in practice in Timperley.*

**M J F McARDLE**  
FRCP

Dr McArdle was one of the group of young neurologists who during the second world war both made the Military Hospital for Head Injuries at St Hugh's, Oxford, and were made by it. Scrupulous attention to detail in the history and examination was the hallmark of his practice. This was manifest in the Medical Research Council's handbook on peripheral nerve injuries, to which he was the main contributor; this became an indispensable aid to all neurologists. His teaching was greatly appreciated; it was not didactic but proceeded by example in showing how the relentless pursuit of the importance of the smallest historical fact or clinical sign could be rewarding. The long waits for his ward rounds (he had no sense of time) were always worth while.

His retirement was marred by the death of his wife, failing vision, and increasing cardiorespiratory problems. Despite these burdens he never lost his sense of humour or his interest in developments in neurology.—JM.

*Michael John Francis McArdle, honorary consultant physician in nervous diseases to Guy's Hospital and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, in London and to Kingston Hospital, died 27 January aged 78. Studied medicine at Guy's Hospital (MRCS, LRCP 1932). During war served in Royal Army Medical Corps as a neurological specialist with rank of lieutenant colonel.*

**C D CORMAC**  
BM, BCH, DPH

While at Oxford Cyril Cormac joined the university air squadron and became a pilot. He was a keen oarsman, rowing both at Oxford and at Guy's. During the war he was appointed a consultant venereologist in west Africa and later spent some time in Germany; he spoke German to interpreter's standard. He developed his public health career in Stockport and Congleton, later becoming divisional medical officer for Cheshire and then medical officer and principal schools medical officer for Buckinghamshire.

It is as the county medical officer for Lindsey that he will be best remembered. At first meeting he might appear stern, but the twinkle in his eye quickly revealed his true nature. By nature he was quiet. He had a complete grasp of all matters in public health, and his advice was always sound. Throughout his time in Lincoln (1956-74) he helped to develop the programme of community care and the deinstitutionalisation of the hospitals. His grasp of matters in psychiatry already showed itself.

When he had retired from Lincolnshire County Council he embarked on yet another career, that of developing a system of care for patients who needed institutional support, firstly as consultant in sub-normality, then at the Eastdale Unit at Balderton Hospital, and later as a consultant in character disorders at Rampton Hospital. As in everything in his life, he threw himself into his role with great vigour and success. His research papers covered all aspects of his

life: night vision in fighter pilots, health of school children, and health centres in a rural community.

Cyril's family life was rewarding and full. He is survived by his wife, Doreen; daughters, Irene and Anita; and four grandchildren.—JHP.

*Cyril Dove Cormac, formerly county medical officer in Lincolnshire and later a consultant at Balderton Hospital, Nottinghamshire, and Rampton Hospital, died 4 July. Born Macclesfield, 28 November 1913; educated Shrewsbury School and Christ Church, Oxford, and Guy's Hospital (BM, BCh 1938). During war served in Europe and west Africa as squadron leader in Royal Air Force.*

**F G MACKINTOSH**  
MB, CHB, FCANAES, DA

During the war Finlay Mackintosh was attached to a maxillofacial unit in Cairo as a specialist anaesthetist. He was called on to anaesthetise some of the most difficult cases an anaesthetist can meet, including patients with extensive burns and severe facial injuries undergoing reconstruction in stages. Some of these were in poor general condition with little jaw remaining. In addition to professionalism he showed patience and compassion. Thus he seemed to possess all the qualities required of a first class anaesthetist. He had technical skill, was endowed with a placid temperament, and developed great tact in dealing with his surgeons. In 1945 he married a physiotherapist, Eileen Johnson, in Cairo Anglican Cathedral.

Finlay joined united Leeds hospitals in 1946. Before the war in Leeds anaesthetics had been administered mostly by general practitioners. There was an urgent need to initiate a modern anaesthetic service and a special requirement for anaesthesia for tiny babies with cleft lip and palate, a skill that Finlay developed as a major interest. He built up a fine training service for his registrars, who were grateful for his patient tuition and practical example. He was proud to have been a member of the board of the Faculty of Anaesthetists.

Ever at heart a Scot, he loved his golf and had a low handicap. A long interest in horse racing led after his retirement to a post as medical officer to Ripon racecourse, which he held for six years. He is survived by his two daughters; his son, Alan, a cardiologist in Leeds; and his four grandchildren.—WMHS.

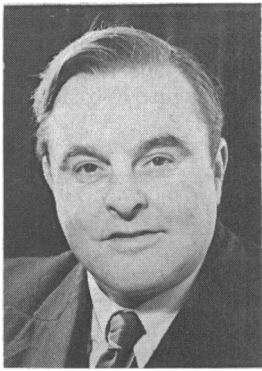
*Finlay George Mackintosh, formerly a consultant anaesthetist at Leeds General Infirmary, died 2 June. Born Inverness, 5 July 1914; educated Inverness Royal Academy, Aberdeen University (MB, ChB 1937). Served in Royal Army Medical Corps as specialist anaesthetist during war.*

**A HUGHES**  
MB, CHB, MRCGP

Sandy Hughes had a reserved manner, which may have arisen from his strongly Presbyterian upbringing in a coalmining village in south west Scotland during the depression. After graduating he was drafted as regimental medical officer to the Lincolns. The padre (subsequently his lifelong friend) found him a competent and conscientious medical officer who showed skill, coolness, and imperturbability even in the most dangerous situations. His compassion and conscientiousness were ever evident in his role as a family doctor in a largely working class practice in Swansea. He did not suffer malingerers at all, but he showed endless patience and devotion to the seriously ill. At the same time he made light of his own serious disability, a progressive and at times extremely painful spinal condition that eventually led to his death.

Off duty he enjoyed watching the "Swans" on a Saturday afternoon or casting his line in search of a fat





M P Martin

trout until his back trouble forced him to give that up. He never lost his skill at spinning a yarn—about fishing, and folk and their foibles and pretensions—usually ending with a joke designed to reveal the foible or deflate the pretention. He bore his last illness with great fortitude and even humour. He is survived by one son.—AL.

*Alexander Hughes, formerly a general practitioner in Swansea, died 20 June aged 70. Educated Dumfries Academy, Glasgow University (MB, ChB 1942). Captain in Royal Army Medical Corps during war.*

**M P MARTIN**  
DSO, MRCS, LRCP

At the age of 17½ Paddy Martin joined the Royal Navy as a paymaster cadet. After service on the China station and in the Mediterranean he was invalided out in 1934 holding the rank of paymaster lieutenant. Shortly after qualifying in medicine he rejoined the navy as surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. During action at Dieppe in 1942 he was awarded the DSO for his part in caring for the many wounded after his landing craft was sunk close to the shore. He saw further service aboard the troopship SS *Viceroy of India*, which was sunk by torpedo while returning from the north African landing. Invalided out from the Royal Navy in 1943, he joined the practice in Worcester where he spent the rest of his career.

He was honorary secretary and social secretary of the Worcester and Bromsgrove division of the BMA from 1948 to 1958 and was instrumental in organising many successful social functions to “get things moving again” after the war. In 1959 he was elected a fellow of the BMA, and during the celebration of the BMA’s centenary year held in Worcester in 1963 he was chairman. An active member of the Powick branch of the Royal British Legion—first as secretary, then as president for many years—he became patron on his retirement.

Paddy Martin was an old fashioned general practitioner who had the ability to clear a packed waiting room at an amazing speed without losing the affection of his patients. He possessed a sixth sense which allowed him to detect patients with a serious problem among the many with more minor complaints. He is survived by Patricia, to whom he was married for 49 years, and four children, one of whom, Simon, is a general practitioner.—SGK.

*Miles Patrick Martin, a general practitioner in Worcester 1944-81, died 26 April aged 78. Born Killeshandra, County Cavan, 11 January 1911; educated Campbell College, Belfast, and Trinity College, Dublin, and West London Hospital Medical School (MRCS, LRCP 1940). Served in Royal Navy during war (awarded DSO).*

**F C DWYER**  
MCHORTH, FRCS

At the end of the second world war Freddie Dwyer returned to Liverpool, where he had studied for his master’s degree, and took up consultant appointments at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital and Sefton General Hospital, where he developed a high quality orthopaedic surgical service. Throughout his career he was particularly supportive of his colleagues in general practice, who appreciated his prompt and practical help, which he gave unstintingly through both his hospital appointments and his private practice. He had an inquiring mind and developed a great interest in the foot. The Dwyer calcaneal osteotomy was a major contribution to the management of both talipes

equinovarus and pes cavus. An excellent teacher, he taught the class studying for the MChOrth at Liverpool University and also examined for that degree.

A man of seemingly unlimited energy, he retained his interest in outdoor and sporting activities. Despite his busy orthopaedic practice he managed to garden energetically, play tennis and squash well, and play golf with optimistic enthusiasm. His ability to play tennis and often defeat his junior staff after a prolonged and heavy operating list will long be remembered, as will the warm hospitality he and his wife, Norah, dispensed at their home. After his retirement he moved to Anglesey and latterly to Cambridge. Despite increasing disability in his later years he continued to swim, play golf, walk, and garden and to share his enjoyment of these activities with many colleagues and friends. He is survived by Norah, his two daughters, and four grandchildren.—FHB.

*Frederick Charles Dwyer, formerly consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital and Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool, died 25 February aged 81. Born South Africa; studied medicine Cape Town University (MB, ChB 1931). In charge of orthopaedic services in Wigan during war; previously general practitioner in Kimberley, South Africa.*

**R D CATON**  
MB, BCHIR, DMRE

Bob Caton was appointed consultant radiologist at Southampton in 1950 and was in the vanguard of radiologists who had a special interest in neurological and arterial radiology. He was a private man, and his natural reserve was accentuated by deafness that had followed neurological surgery while he was still a medical student. Outside medicine his interests lay in his home and his beautiful garden. His children were a source of great pride and pleasure. Sadly his retirement was marred by increasing illness uncomplainingly borne. He is survived by his wife, June; son, Michael; daughter, Sara; and two grandchildren.—RBB.

*Robert Dennis Caton, formerly a consultant radiologist to the Southampton group of hospitals; died 23 May aged 78. Born Banstead, Surrey; educated Rugby School and Pembroke College, Cambridge, and King’s College Hospital Medical School (MB, BChir 1938). Previous appointments at King’s College and Guy’s Hospitals.*

**H H O WOLFF**  
MD, FRCP, FRCPSYCH

AT writes: To students Heinz Wolff (obituary, 22 July, p 255) was a man for whom respect and affection went hand in hand. His charisma and his passionate belief in the teachings of Freud engendered an appreciation of psychotherapy that enabled us to better understand our patients and our own emotions when caring for them. His success in establishing supervised individual student psychotherapy at University College Hospital took up much of his time and effort and was an enormous responsibility. There were occasional failures, but mostly there were successes for both patients and students. Many of his students developed such a love of psychiatry that they followed him into his subject and made the hospital a springboard for excellence in psychiatry. Many others, like me, took their training in psychotherapy into other specialties; this path, I believe, especially pleased Heinz as he wished to “spread the word” in all directions to benefit most people. He himself had first been a physician and wanted all doctors to see patients in a truly holistic manner.