

OBITUARY NOTICES

L. J. HURWITZ

M.D., F.R.C.P.

Dr. L. J. Hurwitz, consultant neurologist to the Royal Victoria and Claremont Street Hospitals and clinical teacher at Queen's University, Belfast, died on 19 October after a brief illness. He was 45.

Lewis John Hurwitz was born on 9 February 1926 and educated at Belfast Royal Academy and Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1949. After house appointments in the neurological department of the Royal Victoria Hospital he was awarded a residency at the National Hospital, Queen



Square, London, for 18 months. Here he became senior resident medical officer and was awarded a scholarship to do research into cerebral vascular disease at Bellevue Hospital, New York. He returned to Queen Square, and in 1961, with a Ciba travel fellowship, worked in Paris with the neurologist Professor Garçin. During his stay at the Salpêtrière he was deeply impressed by French neurology. On his return he published an article on the history of the Salpêtrière in the *Ulster Medical Journal*. Since his appointment 10 years ago to the Royal Victoria and Claremont Street Hospitals his reputation grew steadily as an inspired teacher on neurology and his loss will be deeply felt.

Dr. Hurwitz was a valued contributor to many scientific journals, including the *B.M.J.* He was a member of many distinguished societies, including the Association of British Neurologists, and was honorary secretary to the Ulster Neuropsychiatric Society. He proceeded M.D. in 1953 and was elected F.R.C.P. in 1963.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

M.S. writes: I first met Louis Hurwitz at the National Hospital, Queen Square, in 1960 and I have had the privilege of being closely associated with him as colleague and friend in the department of neurology in Belfast for the past seven years. He was gifted with a truly remarkable brain and intellect which greedily absorbed a classical training at Queen Square and the Salpêtrière to produce a formidable clinical neurologist who brought distinction to the hospitals and medical school in Belfast. In spite of his great knowledge and authority on many subjects, his chief characteristic was humility and his eagerness to recognize the contributions of others—often so insignificant compared to his own.

He was an inspiring teacher and well loved by his students. In his clinical demonstrations he brought both classical description and recent investigations to bear upon each problem. His undergraduate teaching extended to physiotherapists, speech therapists, dental students, nurses, and psychologists, and his name on a programme for general practitioners was sufficient guarantee of a large audience. There was no discipline which did not interest him, and in the last years of his life he wrote with the enthusiasm of an artist wishing to leave behind him some record of his thoughts and ideas. His many papers on a wide variety of topics bear witness to his success in this respect.

It is said that no one is indispensable, but Louis Hurwitz was indispensable to us. His death leaves a void in the life of the hospitals of Belfast and in the hearts of his colleagues and friends which can never be filled.

E. TOWNSEND

O.B.E., M.C., M.D., F.R.C.G.P., D.P.H.

Dr. E. Townsend, until recently a general practitioner at Camborne, Cornwall, died on 17 October at the age of 63.

Eric Townsend was born at Skipton, Yorkshire, on 17 November 1907 and educated at Ermystead's School and Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1931. An extensive and diverse post-graduate experience included that of mental illness and public health as well as four years' general practice at Erith. Proceeding M.D. and gaining the D.P.H. in 1938, he then spent a year as M.O.H. at Bournemouth. In August 1939 he volunteered for service in the R.A.M.C., and a distinguished war record brought him to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was awarded the M.C. for gallantry in action with the 53rd Mid-East Commando in the Western Desert. While commanding the 16th Parachute Field Ambulance at Arnhem he was taken prisoner. His innate courage enabled him to survive the starvation and cold of a bleak winter in a defeated country.

He returned to Germany after unsuccessfully contesting the 1945 election in the Liberal cause in his home town. As medical officer in charge of Unrra operations in the British zone he found much to stimulate his natural sympathy with the distressed. Although later offered a senior post with the International Refugee Organization when that body was formed he was more interested to take part in the coming National Health Service and determined to help make it



work. He found the appropriate setting for his endeavours at Camborne, where he continued to practise until a progressive illness forced his retirement a year ago.

Although a self-effacing man, Dr. Townsend's desire to promote the welfare of his fellows and maintain the honour of his profession led him to take an active part in medical politics. An enthusiastic member of the B.M.A., he was honorary secretary of the Cornwall Division for 19 years. He was a representative on 10 occasions, and his speech in 1958 on the subject of experimentation on prisoners in internment camps during the war is remembered still by those who heard it. For many years a valued member of the local medical committee, he represented the South-west in the General Medical Services Committee from 1966 to 1971. He was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, obtained the Butterworth gold medal in 1961 for his essay "Future Trends in General Practice," and was president of the South-west Faculty. It was a great pleasure to him to be elected Fellow in 1970. This year he was appointed O.B.E.

At Camborne he interested himself in the welfare of old people, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the town band, and the overseas students. Being the most selfless of men, his opinion was sought on many matters, and he could always be relied on to give a disinterested opinion. He used the well-deserved respect given him by his colleagues to quietly further the causes of medical education and improvement in general practice. To his patients he was their well-beloved physician.

He is survived by his wife and one son.—D.J.H.

MARGARET M. BROTHERSTON

M.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Dr. Margaret M. Brotherston died in Edinburgh on 17 October. She was 94. A direct link with the early maternity and child welfare movement in Britain was thus severed, for she was a pioneer in this field.

Margaret Merry Smith was born on 12 October 1877 and received her early education at Knock and Castle Douglas schools before entering George Watson's Ladies College, Edinburgh, in 1894. There she won by examination a George Heriot scholarship which enabled her to pursue her medical studies. In 1896 she entered the Medical College for Women, the more recently founded of two medical schools for women



in Edinburgh and was the prizewinner of her year in Dr. Harvey Littlejohn's class in public health. After a hospital post in Belfast and a period in general practice at Burnley she returned to Edinburgh as resident medical officer to one of the poor-houses there, and during this latter period she studied for and obtained the D.P.H. in 1904. A year later she was appointed executive officer in Manchester Public Health Department to carry out the city's functions under the Midwives Act of 1902. She was the first lady doctor appointed by that department, and Dr. James Niven, the medical officer of health, recorded how sympathetically though firmly she managed to organize the midwives there. It was in Manchester that she first became associated with health visitors, both official and voluntary, and appreciated to the full the work they did among mothers and children. She married William Brotherston, writer to the signet, a well-known Edinburgh lawyer, in 1910 and thus came to reside in the city where she became such a familiar figure.

Soon after her marriage she joined the Edinburgh Voluntary Health Visitors Association, an organization with which she was to become intimately concerned for the next 51 years. It became clear to Dr. Brotherston that something more than home visiting of mothers and babies was required and so the toddlers' playground movement was started in the city. The first playground was opened in 1915 with the aim of providing, for two hours each school morning, exercise, fresh air, and happy occupation for toddlers living in the more crowded parts of the city. With this wider sphere of work the association changed its name to the Voluntary Health Workers. In 1935 Dr. Brotherston's husband died, and later the same year, on the death of the organizing secretary and treasurer of the Voluntary Health Workers she assumed responsibility for this work on a temporary basis but in fact continued to discharge the dual duties for the next 23 years before resigning and being elected president. In 1951 she received the M.B.E. When she finally resigned from the association in 1964 it was responsible for administering 29 playgrounds throughout the city.

Dr. Brotherston was a person of very wide interests and an active member of many diverse organizations. She was a prominent member of the non-militant section of the suffragette movement in her Manchester days and later of the Edinburgh branch of the National Council of Women. She was also a founder member of the British Federation of University Women, being one of the 17 women graduates who met in the library of Manchester High School in 1907 to form what is now the federation.

Dr. Brotherston is survived by a daughter and two sons.

A friend writes: To have known Dr. Brotherston over a long number of years was to have enjoyed a rare privilege. Her zest for living, her keen perception, and her genuine and sincere interest in people were quite exceptional and endeared her to all her friends and associates. Graduating at a time when popular prejudice against women doctors was still strong and often uncompromising, she met the challenge with good humour, character, and self-discipline. Her early medical work made her realize the value of preventive measures and the need

not only for official action but for voluntary work, especially among mothers and their young children. In her long connexion with the Voluntary Health Workers Association in Edinburgh her inspired leadership was apparent in all aspects of its work. Her practical experience and wisdom were ever at the service of the members and her capacity for real friendship was appreciated by all. In 1951 when she received the M.B.E. she was quick to assure the members of the association that each one shared the honour with her: it was no mere personal award. Such was a measure of Dr. Brotherston's humility and sincerity, the keynotes too of her home and family life.

F.B. writes: Dr. Brotherston was a tall, handsome woman, in appearance a typical Scot. She was practical, shrewd, with a good sense of humour and with that somewhat rare gift of empathy. She had great mental and physical energy and vigour, apparently undiminishing until her last couple of years, serving on various committees and attending many meetings both social and medical.

For women who graduated in medicine at the beginning of the century opportunities for gaining postgraduate experience and for suitable practice were few. Conditions demanded enterprise, courage, and wisdom as well as a high degree of intelligence. These Dr. Brotherston possessed in plenty. She also possessed the spirit of leadership, as shown in the part she played in the suffrage movement and in the formation of the British Federation of University Women and the Medical Women's Federation.

L. CRAIG

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Dr. L. Craig, formerly in general practice at Wallsend, Northumberland, died on 3 October at the age of 67.

Leslie Craig was born on 14 October 1904 and educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. He was an outstanding athlete there and during his medical student days. After qualifying from Edinburgh and Glasgow he entered general practice and was a dedicated practitioner in a busy practice for nearly 40 years on Tyneside. He will be greatly missed by his medical colleagues and patients, to whom he was both friend and physician.

Dr. Craig was a bachelor and is survived by two brothers, both of whom are in the medical profession.—A.C.C.

F. LISHMAN

O.B.E., M.B., B.S.

T.H.B. writes: Fenwick Lishman (obituary 9 October, p. 118) was a first-class organizer, and before the days of walkie-talkies he instituted in his practice a flag system which allowed rapid contact to be made with him or one of his partners of whom his patients had urgent need. A short attachment of his practice was popular among medical undergraduates under a pilot scheme initiated by the late Dr. C. C. Ungley. Although Fenwick Lishman gave most of his time to diverse activities in medicine he had acquired a large circle of

friends during his frequent visits to London, particularly in the legal profession, and they greatly enjoyed his company and his ability as a conversationalist. He was proud of being a Freeman of the City of London.

ALDO CASTELLANI

M.D., F.R.C.P., F.A.C.P.

G.S.W. writes: Castellani was a many-sided man (obituary, 16 October, p. 174). I wish to speak here only of his scientific side. In the early part of his career he made four major original contributions. He discovered the trypanosome of sleeping sickness and the spirochaete of yaws; he devised the technique of absorption of antibiotics, which has been widely used ever since, first by bacteriologists and secondly by virologists; and he introduced combined vaccines for prophylactic purposes, the use of which is now universal. During his almost meteoric career as a consulting physician in Harley Street his genuine search for truth never left him. After the front door had been shut he would retire to his laboratory and spend hours examining specimens he had taken from his patients, before going down towards midnight for his dinner in the West End. Up to within a year or two of his death he remained passionately interested—and the expression is not too strong—in his studies of bacteria and moulds; and on his annual visits to Britain he would arrive laden with suitcases packed full of cultures for further examination. His continuous and lasting devotion to science was truly remarkable.

DORIS M. BAKER

M.D., F.R.C.P.

G.S. writes: Dr. Doris Baker (obituary, 9 October, p. 118) was indeed shy and reserved and difficult to approach even by her colleagues, many of whom felt that she was so concerned with medicine and her patients as to have no time for anyone or anything else. Those who succeeded in getting to know her better found her a most interesting, kind, and hospitable friend. She had a wide knowledge of antique clocks, silver, furniture, and art of all ages. Any leisure moments she allowed herself would be devoted to visiting Christie's, Sotheby's, or picture galleries. Sometimes she would bid and secure a treasure which she would show us later in her charming house on Richmond Terrace, where she enjoyed entertaining us. It was characteristic that no one heard from Doris herself when she had been elected president of the Section of Physical Medicine of the R.S.M., an honour which pleased her greatly even though she was filled with terror before each meeting, for no one disliked public speaking and committee meetings more than she did. She maintained her interest in hospital work and continued to do clinics and locums after she retired, but was able to enjoy more fully her visits to art collections and historic houses. It was grievous indeed to see her suffering from a slowly progressive illness, of which she had such knowledge.

A memorial service for the late Dr. Thomas Anwyl-Davies (obituary, 16 October, p. 174) will be held at the Chapel, St. Thomas's Hospital, on 19 November at 12 noon.