

OBITUARY NOTICES

E. G. SITA LUMSDEN

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

Dr. E. G. Sita Lumsden, consultant physician to the Southend group of hospitals, died on 22 September in a yachting accident. He was 56.

Edward Gilbert Sita Lumsden was born on 19 March 1918. He was educated at Kingswood School, Bath, and studied medicine at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and the London Hospital, graduating in medicine in 1942 and also taking the M.A. with first-class honours. Until 1946 he served with distinction in destroyers as a surgeon lieutenant R.N.V.R. It was during this time that he developed his affection for the sea and sailing. He took the M.R.C.P. in 1945 during his naval service. When he left the Royal Navy he worked at Brompton Hospital and the London Hospital, with several months at Bellevue Hospital, New York. He was appointed consultant chest physician at Southend in 1949, when Lancaster House Chest Clinic was in its infancy, and spent most of his first year organizing the clinic. The pressure of work was so great that he used to sleep at night in his consulting room. At first he was associated entirely with the chest clinic and its ward block at Rochford Hospital. During this time he wrote several papers on the treatment and prophylaxis of tuberculosis. However, his clinical skill meant that he was increasingly occupied in general medicine and he became general physician to the Southend group with beds in both chest and general medicine. He proceeded M.D. in 1951 and was elected F.R.C.P. in 1970.

Dr. Sita Lumsden served Southend for 25 years, and during this time his unfailing good humour, acumen, and boundless energy guaranteed an almost insurmountable clinical commitment. Somehow he found time to assume administrative posts. He was chairman of the Advisory Committee on Thoracic Medicine and a member of the Committee on General Medicine for the North-east Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. When he became senior physician to the group in 1968 he was chairman of the group medical advisory committee and later the first chairman of the medical executive committee and a member of the district management team. He also served as chairman of the South-east Essex division of the B.M.A.

He was always an active clinician despite his increasing committee work and never allowed it to supersede his work in the wards and outpatients. His opinion was much sought after by his colleagues in the hospital and in general practice, and he was unfailingly courteous to his patients and staff. Outside the hospital he lived his life with the same enthusiasm that he applied to his work. Always interested in sporting activities, he was a member of the Thames Estuary Auto Club and an expert skier and mountaineer. However, it was sailing that gave him most pleasure. It is tragic irony

that he should lose his life in the sea that gave him so much enjoyment and relaxation. Dr. Sita Lumsden will be greatly missed by his patients and colleagues at Southend. He is survived by his wife Stella and two sons.—J.J.H.

D. P. DEGENHARDT

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

Dr. D. P. Degenhardt, consultant physician to Darlington Memorial Hospital, died on 19 October. He was 60.

Donald Patrick Degenhardt was born in Germany on 27 November 1913. After school education there he was, along with other members of his family, soon in conflict with the rising political philosophy, so that it seemed wiser to continue his medical studies at Edinburgh near his Scottish mother's relatives and family friends. He graduated in 1938 and after house appointments at Perth Royal Infirmary found himself on the outbreak of hostilities a political prisoner for the second time. It was not long before his loyalty to this country was recognized and he was released to work in hospitals in the Borders. Later he became a naturalized British subject. He took the M.R.C.P. in 1945, and in 1949 proceeded M.D. with a thesis on pulmonary tuberculosis, which had become his special interest. After an appointment as physician in charge of the tuberculosis unit at Law Hospital he continued in this work as chest physician to the Darlington and North-allerton group of hospitals, where he was subsequently appointed consulting physician with a special interest in geriatrics. He published papers on multiple myeloma, honeycomb lung, and neuropathic joints in diabetes. In 1971 he was elected F.R.C.P.

Dr. Degenhardt was a hard and unselfish worker who was always concerned with the less well-endowed members of the community. He enjoyed himself in others' company, especially on the Scottish hills and at the Edinburgh Festival. In 1941 he married Catherine Ross, with whom he had worked at Perth Royal Infirmary, and they had three children. Her untimely death was followed by happy remarriage.—C.G.

J. H. GIBBENS

M.A., M.B., B.CHIR., M.R.C.P.

Dr. J. H. Gibbens, formerly physician in charge of the children's department at St. John's Hospital, Lewisham, died on 13 October. He was 74.

John Hartley Gibbens was born on 8 February 1900 and educated at Cambridge and St. Thomas's Hospital, where he qualified with the Conjoint diploma in 1925. During the second world war he served in the R.A.M.C. as a lieutenant-colonel com-

manding a medical division. Dr. Gibbens is survived by his wife and daughter.

T.C.N.G. writes: John Gibbens was medical officer to the Babies' Club, Chelsea, and formerly chief assistant to the children's department of St. Thomas's Hospital and to the infants' department of Queen Charlotte's Hospital. From just before the second world war he had a private general practice in Kensington, but always maintained his special interest in paediatrics and the Chelsea Babies' Clinic. He will be best known to thousands of parents for his two books *Care of Young Babies* (1940) and *Care of Children from One to Five Years* (1950). These books went into five and six editions. He was struck by the fact that in those days the available books were "either so full of descriptions of dread diseases that a young mother may be forgiven for feeling that the rearing of a young child is a dangerous and difficult task, not to be entered upon lightly; while others again are written to advocate some complicated system of infant feeding." His books were devoted to the principle that "given common sense and consistency and an ability to take trouble over details most babies can be brought up easily and straightforwardly." Apart from giving confidence to mothers he started the idea of a paternal contribution, much to the fathers' amusement or irritation, or usually both. No one is more persistently grateful than a mother whose anxieties have been relieved or who has been supported during a prolonged and difficult time. He continued in private practice until the day of his death, and will be mourned by many parents.

R. M. E. SMITH

L.R.C.P.&S.ED., L.R.F.P.S.GLAS.

Dr. R. M. E. Smith, who was in general practice at Peterborough, Northamptonshire, died on 29 September. He was 60.

Robert May Edwards Smith was born at Glasgow on 23 June 1914 and educated at the John Neilson Institute, Renfrewshire; Skerry's College, Liverpool; and Queen's University, Belfast, where he qualified in 1939. Throughout the second world war he served in Africa and Europe as a major in the R.A.M.C. After demobilization he practised at Bridlington before joining a practice at Peterborough in 1946, where he remained until his death. For 27 years he was divisional surgeon to the nursing division of the St. John Ambulance Association, and he was a serving brother of the Order. Chairman of the Peterborough branch of the National Society for Cancer Relief, he was also a very active member of a committee raising funds to provide a hydrotherapy pool for the handicapped of the city. He served on the executive council for the Soke of Peterborough, the Soke Health Committee, but

resigned after his first coronary, which occurred on the Monte Carlo Rally in 1960. He was an enthusiastic rallyist and motor club sportsman and perfected an electronic timing machine.

A man of great vitality and dynamic energy he threw himself wholeheartedly into anything with which he was concerned. His unfailing cheerfulness and spirit inspired all who met him. He was mortally ill for the last year of his life, but refused to acknowledge his failing heart and worked enthusiastically and normally until his death came suddenly, as he knew it would. He accepted his illness courageously and was never heard to complain. His colleagues and patients mourn the loss of a great character and a sincere and generous friend. He is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.—H.M.W.

M. J. HERON

B.SC., M.D., C.M., D.P.M., M.R.C.PSYCH.

Dr. M. J. Heron, consultant psychotherapist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, died on 22 October. He was 56.

Malcolm John Heron was born in 1918 and graduated in medicine at McGill University, Montreal.

D.H.C. writes: Malcolm Heron was born in Jamaica into a long-established family of Scots plantation-owners. Following an old West Indian tradition, he studied medicine at McGill, graduating in 1943, and then served in the Canadian Army. In 1949 he settled in London, trained in psychiatry at the West Middlesex and Friern Hospitals, and took a variety of jobs while undergoing years of personal analysis and building up his experience. During this odyssey he developed many artistic and cultural interests and especially worked with youth clubs for young deviants. He went to Cambridge in 1966 as consultant psychotherapist and soon became a leading member of the psychiatric group, developing a service of psychotherapy based on both individual and group work. He worked mostly with N.H.S. patients, especially young people, but found time to help colleagues and members of the University, for which many remain grateful. He arrived in Cambridge at the time of national concern about hard drug addiction and was one of the main architects of the Cambridge heroin containment unit, which limited and then cut back heroin addiction in the city. In more recent years he was central in the development of psychotherapeutic training for staff of all professions and also helped to lay the foundations for a young people's advisory service, which is just now expanding.

He was one of the best of colleagues—industrious, co-operative, and insightful with his patients, tolerant and perceptive of the trainees he counselled. Personally charming, a delightful cultured host, he had nevertheless a tang of dry wit which saw the foibles of others but did not jeer at them too much. The only thing that roused him to fury was the cleverness that cripples or crushes

others, especially the frail and vulnerable. Though he had had poor health for the last two years, it was only a few months ago that it became clear that he had developed cancer. He faced this with exemplary courage, sharing the news and its meaning with his friends. There was so much more he wished to do and it is sad he did not have the time, but he faced his coming end in a way that was an example to us all.

ANNIE D. YOUNG

M.B., CH.B.

Dr. Annie D. Young, formerly consultant psychiatrist at Bruntsfield Hospital for Women, Edinburgh, died on 26 September. She was 92.

Annie Davidson Urquhart, the eldest daughter of an Edinburgh solicitor, graduated in medicine at Edinburgh in 1906. Until her marriage in 1909 to Dr. John Young, a general practitioner at Bearsden, she worked at the mental hospital at Morpeth. When her husband joined the R.A.M.C. in 1915 she returned to Edinburgh and worked at West House Mental Hospital until she was demobilized and settled in practice at Edinburgh. In the ensuing years she devoted herself to supporting him in the smooth organization of his practice while occupied with her family of two sons and her dead sister's two young daughters, for whom she made a home. During the second world war she returned to psychiatric work at Jordanburn Hospital, Edinburgh, and afterwards accepted an appointment as consultant psychiatrist at Bruntsfield Hospital, a post she held until she retired in 1956. Her Bruntsfield colleagues remember with the deepest affection and gratitude Dr. Young's warm and friendly personality, delightful humour, ever-prompt response to requests for professional advice, and unflinchingly wise and sympathetic approach to all with whom she had to deal.

The last eight years of her life were marred by increasing blindness, a handicap she bore with unflinching fortitude, refusing to allow it to interfere with such activities and mobility as her increasing years would allow. To the end she remained to her family and to younger generations of relations the source of great interest, affection, and wisdom that had always won her a central place in their lives. She is survived by her husband and two sons, who are also doctors.—E.M.W., M.A.K.

W. MANDLER

M.D.

Dr. W. Mandler, who was formerly in general practice at Kettering, Northamptonshire, died on 12 October. He was 63.

Walter Mandler was born in Czechoslovakia on 8 August 1911 near the Bavarian border and studied medicine at the University of Prague, graduating in 1936. He left his country in March 1939 after the German invasion and made his way to

Britain. In 1941 registration allowed him to take up his profession again and he became a house physician at Kettering General Hospital. Fifteen months later he joined a general practice in the town as an assistant, continuing his association with the hospital as an anaesthetist. He was also blood transfusion officer for the area. In 1949 he became a partner in the practice and continued his post as S.H.M.O. in anaesthetics at the hospital.

Walter Mandler brought to his work a keen mind and a sensitivity and kindness which served him well as a true family doctor. Held in affection by his patients and colleagues, he had a directness that did not give offence because of his genuine interest and sincerity. His health deteriorated after the tragic death of his wife in a road accident in 1968 and he was forced to retire the following year. In the last years of his life he regained a degree of serenity and continued to attend the postgraduate meetings at the hospital in which he had started his career in Britain 30 years before. Dr. Mandler served the local community very well. He is survived by two daughters.—P.P.S.

R. J. McNEILL LOVE

M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S.

V.A.J.S. writes: With his many interests Mr. Love (obituary, 12 October, p. 113) was a busy man and usually appeared to be in a hurry. He was a rapid, deft surgeon with an economy of manipulation. In the operating theatre he assailed the nurses and his assistants with questions and to stimulate their interest would embellish their replies with reminiscences and aids to memory. He was ready to help everyone.

A.G. writes: I sought Robbie Love's advice on financing a new treatment for cancer by tracking a radiation beam along the lymph nodes. As surgeon to the Arsenal Football Club he contacted its president, who became chairman of a successful public appeal, while Mr. Love continued as honorary secretary up to the last few months of his life. Those connected with the tracking cobalt project owe him a great debt.

L. T. POLLARD

M.B.E., M.B., CH.B.

T.C.G.S. writes: Leslie Pollard (obituary, 12 October, p. 115) was not only a good and trusted colleague but a kindly and courteous friend and gentleman whose interests ranged wide, and whose hospitality and friendship had no limits. Leslie was fascinated by all aspects of life, including particularly the people of the area into which he had retired, and was for some years a hard-working county councillor. He rarely talked of his early years with Lawrence of Arabia, preferring modesty and quiet efficiency. He leaves a great gap in the small community which he served so well.