

OBITUARY

J R H WILDE

MB, BS

Dr J R H Wilde, formerly in general practice at Northampton, died on 7 May. He was 55.

John Roland Hibgame Wilde was born on 4 July 1922 and educated at Berkhamsted School. From there he went into the Indian Army in 1940. Following a family tradition, he joined the Baluch Regiment and served as a captain until 1948. But his vocation was medicine, and on his return to England he became a student at the Middlesex Hospital. After qualifying he held several hospital appointments in Northamptonshire, forming a special interest in obstetrics and gynaecology, before settling in an old-established practice at Northampton. In practice his medical skills and personal kindness earned him the high regard and friendship of his colleagues and endeared him to his patients. All were greatly saddened when ill health dictated his retirement in 1976.

With the great support of a very happy family life with his wife, four children, and an enormous and devoted Labrador, he carried the misfortune of ill health bravely and almost lightly. He was always ready to deflate any show of pomposity, and was a witty and good-humoured companion. We shall all remember John as an accomplished host, a man of sound judgment, and a brave example. He will be sadly missed.—JEN.

E M ATKINSON

MB, BS, FRCS

Mr E M Atkinson, who had practised as an ear, nose, and throat surgeon first in London, then in Bath, and ultimately in New York, died in the Nantucket Cottage Hospital, Massachusetts, on 26 April. He was 82.

Eric Miles Atkinson was born in London on 28 April 1895. From Epsom College he came to St Bartholomew's in 1912, and on the outbreak of war in 1914 he served for several months with the British Expeditionary Force in France as a motor-cycle dispatch rider. Sent back in 1915 to continue his studies, he qualified early in 1917 and served until the end of the war as a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Navy. Returning to Barts after the war he became a demonstrator in anatomy and took the FRCS in 1920. He took a special interest in otolaryngology and worked as an assistant surgeon in the ENT department of the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Tottenham. In 1926 he was awarded the Jacksonian prize at the Royal College of Surgeons for his essay on brain abscess and was appointed a Hunterian professor in 1928.

From 1925 till 1935 Atkinson worked in Bath as surgeon in charge of the ENT department of the Royal United Hospital, and then he spent a year with Dr Wilder Penfield at the Neurological Institute in Montreal. Finally in 1936 he settled in New York, where he was

on the staff of the New York Hospital and later of the Bellevue Hospital. In 1937 he became a diplomate of the American Board of Otolaryngology, and in 1938 a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology. He continued in hospital and private practice in New York till 1964, when he moved to live and practise on Nantucket Island. For some months before his death he suffered from the effects of vascular disease in the peripheral and coronary arteries, and this proved fatal two days before his 83rd birthday. He is survived by his wife and a son and daughter in the United States, and by another son who graduated at Oxford and is now working in London.—JPR.

H N GREGG

GM, MB, CHB, MRCP

Dr H N Gregg, formerly in general practice at Coventry, died on 18 May. He was 69.

Henry Norman Gregg was born at Selly Oak, Birmingham, and educated at King Edward's School and Birmingham University medical school. In 1931 he took an honours degree in medicine and two years later joined a general practice at Coventry, where his particular interest in midwifery had full scope. He was interested in young people, and this was reflected in his Scouting activities in the Radford district during his early days at Coventry and later in his work as medical officer to Bablake School. He was chairman of the Coventry Division of the BMA in 1946 and was recently elected to the committee of the Worcester and Bromsgrove Division. In 1940, while attached to a Civil Defence first aid post, he was awarded the George Medal for his work in the centre of Coventry during the intense bombardment at the height of the air raids on that city. He was a member of the NHS executive council until 1971 and served for four years on the South Warwickshire hospital management committee. He took a great interest in the building and equipping of the new Walsgrave Hospital. In 1950 he was appointed a magistrate, becoming chairman of the Coventry bench in 1968. He retired from the bench in 1972, and in the same year retired from general practice to live in the country near Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire.

A hill walker and lover of the countryside, he had a wide knowledge of the flora. He walked Offa's Dyke long before it became well known, and more recently the full length of the Pennine Way. Flying gliders or light aircraft gave him great pleasure and relaxation. His wide interests and willingness to share his knowledge made him many friends. He was a keen Mason. After he retired from practice he continued to work part time in the National Blood Transfusion Service, on medical boards, and as an examiner for pilots' licences. He bore his long illness with dignity and courage, and gave up his

part-time work only in the latest stages. He is survived by his wife Peggy and a son and two daughters.—AJKW.

H PARRY WILLIAMS

FRCP

Dr H Parry Williams, formerly consultant paediatrician to the Coventry hospitals, died on 13 May. He was 75.

Harold Parry Williams qualified with the Conjoint diploma at King's College Hospital in 1926. He spent some years in general practice at Leicester, but on the outbreak of the second world war joined the Army and served throughout. He became MRCP in 1945 and was elected to the fellowship in 1955. He had always been interested in paediatrics, and in 1947 he came to Coventry as a consultant paediatrician. He was a great example of the caring physician, and countless parents still treasure the memory of his kindness and wisdom in dealing with their children—especially, perhaps, medical parents at Coventry, few of whom brought up their families without at some time calling on the ever ready help given by Parry Williams. The esteem in which he was held was shown by the unprecedented farewell party given by the Coventry general practitioners on his retirement, and his services to the city were recognised by the Coventry Award of Merit given by the city council.

Parry Williams was a well-read man, and little that was relevant in paediatric literature escaped his attention. His knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm, and above all his warm personality, made him a great teacher, and most of his registrars have become consultants in paediatrics. But one's abiding memory of him is of the deep concern and sustained interest he showed in each and every child who came under his care. He is survived by his wife Winifred, who nursed him devotedly throughout his last illness.—THB.

Major-General L R H KEATINGE

CBE, BA, MB, BCH, BAO, late RAMC (Ret)

General Keatinge died on 1 June at his Wiltshire home. He was 77.

Leslie Reginald Heber Keatinge was born on 17 July 1901 and educated at Ellesmere College and Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated in medicine in 1928. He joined the RAMC the same year and began a long and successful career. At the outbreak of the second world war he was recalled from his DPH course at Queen's, Belfast, and joined the British Expeditionary Force as DADH 1st Corps and was evacuated from Dunkirk. Having commanded a field ambulance, he was appointed as ADMS 2nd Army and was on the planning staff for the invasion of

Europe. After the war he served as Director Medical Services Far East and was commanding officer of 17th and 21st British General Hospital in India. He retired in 1960 and was appointed CBE. His retirement to the West Country sparked off a new interest for him in the affairs of the local community. He served on both parish and rural councils up to his death and was a trustee of local charities and a reader in the Church of England. He sat on medical boards and maintained an interest in all ex-service bodies, particularly the Royal British Legion. A keen golfer, he was for many years president of the South Wilts Club.

General Keatinge was kind and considerate and a devoted family man, ready to assist in any aspect of village or district life. His advice was frequently sought and readily accepted. He will be remembered with affection by all who knew him, especially those with whom he worshipped in his beloved parish church. He is survived by his devoted wife Dorothy, a daughter, and two sons.—DBK.

P M PAYNE

BSC

Mr Peter M Payne, director of the South Thames Cancer Registry, died on 9 May. He was 57.

Peter Maurice Payne was born at Durham in 1920 and educated at John Lyon School, Middlesex. He served with the Royal Corps of Signals during the second world war as an instructor. Subsequently he studied at University College, gaining firsts in pure mathematics and physics and the BSc in 1950. He was a member of the Institute of Actuaries and a fellow of the Statistical Society. Peter Payne created the South Thames Cancer Registry in 1958, one of the first of its kind in this country. His comprehensive annual reports were models providing a service to clinicians and research workers both nationally and internationally, and an invaluable source of material for administrative planning. He established a computer-based recording system, but never forgot that his unit was there to serve, giving instant, friendly, and efficient service. A member of the National Working Party on Cancer Registration in 1964, he was also co-editor with Sir Richard Doll of *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents*. Between 1964 and 1970 he visited the United States, India, and Uruguay advising on the development of cancer registration.

His sudden early death will leave a gap which will be difficult to fill. The NHS has lost a dedicated servant and his friends and colleagues mourn his loss. He is survived by his wife and sons.—DWS.

E T W STARKIE

MA, MB, BCHIR

Dr E T W Starkie, consultant chest physician to the Northampton group of hospitals until his retirement in 1968, died at his home on 18 May after a short illness. He was 74.

Ernest Thomas Winstanley Starkie was born in Lancashire on 12 July 1903, the son of a doctor, and was educated at Bedford School. He went to Clare College, Cambridge, in 1922 and later to St Mary's Hospital, London. His

father, who was in practice at Birmingham, died, and Tom returned home to complete his clinical studies at Queen's Hospital. He qualified with the Conjoint diploma in 1929, and took the Cambridge MA and BChir in 1933 and the MB in 1940. After house appointments at Birmingham he became assistant medical officer at the Lord Treloar Hospital, Alton. There he developed his life interest in chest medicine, and in 1932 he was appointed medical superintendent of Creaton Sanatorium in Northamptonshire. He immediately put his full energy and determination into developing his clinical skill and to improving the facilities available at Creaton. He went to London weekly for many years as clinical assistant at Brompton Hospital. With the assistance of an enthusiastic committee of management he had a new surgical block, operating theatre, x-ray department, and nurses' home built at Creaton. In 1948 the NHS took over a well-developed thoracic unit with good permanent buildings and regular visits from established thoracic surgeons.

During the war he had been in charge of Thornby Convalescent Home, and although not called up for active service had been awarded the Territorial Long Service Medal. By 1948 he had built up such a sound reputation that he was at once graded as a consultant chest physician and other hospitals and clinics in Northamptonshire were glad to avail themselves of his advice. He served on the Northampton hospital management committee, on specialist subcommittees of the regional board, and on the BMA Regional Consultants and Specialists Committee for several years. When the scourge of tuberculosis declined he developed a wide knowledge of chest medicine and cardiology and increasingly devoted beds for these at Creaton.

Tom had a great sense of fun, and this brought optimism and hope to many patients. His kindness, perseverance, and generosity will long be remembered by many. He is survived by his wife Nancy and their two sons and four daughters.—ARB.

A B MONRO

PHD, MD, FRCP, FRCPED, FRCPSYCH, DPM

Dr A B Monro, formerly physician superintendent of Long Grove Hospital, Epsom, died on 30 May. He was 68.

Alan Bentley Monro graduated in medicine at Edinburgh in 1932. He was elected FRCP Edinburgh in 1969, FRCPSych in 1971, and FRCP London in 1973.

DC writes: Since 1973 Dr Monro had served as Lord Chancellor's Visitor. Previously he had been for many years the distinguished medical superintendent of Long Grove Hospital, and for the latter part of this time also consultant psychiatrist to the adolescent unit at Kingston Hospital. However, he was better known in the psychiatric world as the honorary general secretary of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association from 1957 to 1971, before its translation into the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1972. With Dr Ian Skottowe he played a large part in the formation and constitution of the present royal college. Ben Monro, as he was known to his friends, had a long string of top qualifications, and past presidents of the old RMPA, who held office for one year only, came to depend on his experience, wisdom, and judgment.

He had outstanding ability, with remarkable gifts of verbal exposition and the rapid composition of first-rate memoranda on complex problems.

Sadly he did not contribute much to psychiatric literature. He believed in the value of numerical analysis in reaching a rational judgment, but never fell into the fallacy that in clinical psychiatry what cannot be precisely measured can be safely omitted. Ben was tall, and to some may have appeared rather formidable. In private he was excellent company, humorous, witty, and well informed. Dr Monro is survived by his devoted wife Elsie. One of his three sons is a doctor.

D M BLAIR

CMG, OBE, MD, DPH

WHRL writes: The death of Dr Dyson Blair (obituary, 27 May, p 1427) removes one more of the medical men who contributed significantly to the effective use of the British Army Medical Services in the tropical theatres of the second world war. Malaria field laboratories, conceived as a precaution against a repetition of the catastrophes such as happened in Macedonia in the first world war, were mobilised from 1940 onwards, but how most effectively to employ them in the field under the rapidly varying conditions of modern warfare was little thought out. Dyson Blair was one of the senior men, long experienced in the control of malaria in the tropics, whose comments in discussion were invaluable for defining principles. I learned much from his mature experience in 1941 when, as a junior officer in No 3 Malaria Field Laboratory, I was sent to the Western Desert to assess the malaria risk in Siwa Oasis, then being used as a base for the Long Range Desert Group but shortly to be occupied by South African troops. Blair, who was then with the Western Desert Force Headquarters, went with me to do the clinical side of the survey, for which I did the entomology. I was fortunate to have another opportunity to discuss with him in late 1942, just before we entered the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns, when he was in command of the Army School of Hygiene at Sarafand in Palestine. Blair was not only a wise mentor for these pragmatic things but also a kindly personal guide.

R S ALLISON

MD, FRCP

DJCD writes: May I be permitted to add a brief personal tribute to a loved one-time chief and old friend, Dr R S Allison (obituary, 27 May, p 1427)? Like many of his clinical assistants and registrars, I found RSA to be a most stimulating chief, a superb teacher and demonstrator, and an enthusiastic and inspiring clinician. He took a personal interest in the subsequent careers of those who were so fortunate as to have worked with him. I found that his realistic and objective approach to clinical medicine, neurology, and psychiatry helped me, when I came to specialise in psychiatry, not to be tempted to divorce it from general medicine and thus to keep my feet on the ground. There must be many who, like myself, owe him a considerable debt of gratitude.