

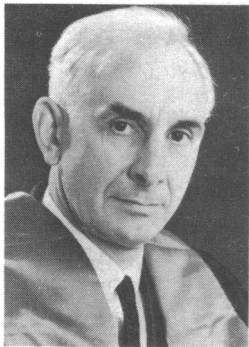
OBITUARY

JOHN M MYNORS

CHM, MB, FRCS

Mr J M Mynors, consultant surgeon to Coventry and Rugby, died suddenly at his home on 31 March. He was 57.

John Malbon Mynors was born at Birmingham on 1 September, 1921 and educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, Birmingham. In 1943 he graduated with distinction from Birmingham Medical School, and he had also prepared himself for a life of practical Christian service by Crusader leadership. After resident surgical and obstetric



appointments he became temporary surgeon lieutenant, RNVR, and saw active service in destroyers before the end of the second world war. After several resident appointments he took the FRCS in 1953 and practised in the Sudan, becoming senior lecturer in surgery at the University College of Khartoum. While there his interest was kindled in the need for medical training in developing countries, and he returned to England in 1956 resolved to prepare himself to be a teacher of surgery. During his postgraduate training at Birmingham and Oxford he developed a special interest in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery. His thesis on the clinical significance of the bowel sounds led to the award of the ChM by Birmingham University in 1964.

He held the distinction of being the first occupant of the chair of surgery at two different medical schools. In 1963, under the auspices of the British Council, he was appointed professor of surgery in the Mosul Medical College of the University of Baghdad. In 1966 he was appointed professor of surgery in the new medical school of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The stream of graduates of a very high standard and those who have attained FRCS owe their success mainly to him. He endowed a prize for anatomy in this medical school, and was an examiner for the primary FRCS in South Africa.

In 1972 he became consultant surgeon to the Hospital of St Cross at Rugby and to Gulson Hospital, Coventry, and initiated and maintained the teaching of anatomy at Coventry to students taking the primary FRCS examination. John Mynors applied the faith of a committed Christian to his work, with the wellbeing of the patient as his goal. He was kind and gentle, with a quiet sense of humour, intolerant to those who would compromise the high standards he set. His patients and students loved him. Junior medical and nursing staff recall with affection his approach-

ability, patience, and loyalty. As a surgeon and a man he has left his mark in three continents. He has left tangible reminders of his generosity. He rescued four steam locomotives from the scrapyards and was an active member of the Great Western Society and the Caerphilly Railway Society. He planted many trees in his corner of Warwickshire to replace those destroyed by Dutch elm disease. He is survived by his wife Una, two daughters, and a son.—DCD, HMD.

I W WHIMSTER

MB, BCHIR, MRCPATH

Dr I W Whimster, reader in pathology of the skin at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School, died in a road accident on 18 January. He was 55.

Ian Wesley Whimster was educated at Lancing College; Clare College, Cambridge; and St Thomas' Hospital and qualified MB in 1946. After house appointments at St Thomas' Hospital he became lecturer in pathology in the medical school. He soon developed a special interest in skin pathology which steadily increased over the years. He became MRCPATH in 1963 and reader in pathology of the skin in 1970. Ian Whimster had extraordinary brilliance of vision coupled with a penetrating intelligence. He found significance in the minutest detail of skin appearance. His fascination with the organisation of spots and their relation to innervation led him to experiments with grafting in reptiles and he became a master in this. He had a vast knowledge of natural history and developed uncanny skill in rearing small reptiles necessary to his work. As a skin pathologist he was second to none, and his knowledge of malignant melanoma was respected and his opinion sought throughout the world. He was always most generous in helping others and was instrumental in advancing many aspects of dermatology when the subject grew and flowered under the influence of Dr G B Dowling.

Dr Whimster's unique work took up more and more of his time, and, as is the way with genius, some other aspects of his life suffered. His tragic death has left many vital experiments unfinished and has robbed us of the rarest intelligence in skin pathology.—SCW.

REB writes: Ian Whimster was one of the rare people who asked the question that nobody else had ever considered. His originality was outstanding, and my friendship with him began after several brief encounters in which he demonstrated that I was not only ill informed but also lacking in fundamental curiosity. Though only recently qualified, he had already been in the medical team which entered Belsen concentration camp shortly after the departure of the Germans. The experience left a dark impression which time did little to erase, but there was much

happiness with his friends and later in his home and garden. He was as gifted with plants as he soon became with his animals. As the years passed, his animals occupied more and more of his attention. Even on Sundays he could be found travelling from Godalming to St Thomas' to feed them. There were times of severe depression when his work almost came to a standstill; but his publications never ceased to bear the hallmarks of originality, strict experimental method, and perfect English composition. Others have spoken and will speak of his contributions to biology and dermatology: I am grateful for the opportunity to pay a personal tribute.

T A ENGLISH

MB, CHB, FRCSEd

Mr T A English, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Hull Royal Infirmary, died at his home on 29 March. He was 49.

Thomas Anthony English was born at Whitby, Yorkshire, the son of a local doctor and one of a line of five generations of medical men and women. He was educated at Terrington and at Worksop College. He read medicine at St Andrews and trained in surgery and orthopaedics at York, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Newcastle, obtaining the FRCSEd at an early stage in his career, then acquiring an unusually wide experience in his chosen specialty before coming to Hull as a consultant in 1967. As a boy, Tom had already displayed his mechanical genius. He built his own boats and dabbled with considerable skill in a number of engineering projects with remarkable success. He was tempted to be an engineer, but decided to follow the distinguished traditions of his forefathers in medicine, though his mechanical gifts were to find expression in his work. An excellent and conservative surgeon, he was widely sought after by local practitioners for his kindly and effective handling of patients. His work was highly organised, and, despite a grossly overloaded clinical job, he found time to teach, demonstrate, and advise large numbers of young surgeons in training. The needs of the young were never far from his mind, and his guidance was greatly appreciated.

Tom was a thinking surgeon. He quickly learnt to dispel from his practice old cant which he had found groundless, but innovations were soon discovered to replace the notions he had discarded. He carried out a number of fundamental research projects related to the mechanics of the hip joint, its lubrication, and its functional dependence on related muscle groups. This was performed jointly with colleagues in bio-engineering and led to a series of respected papers and communications at orthopaedic and bio-engineering meetings in Britain and abroad. His discoveries were more than theoretical

advances, and led to his successfully modifying the operation for hip replacement devised by Charnley. In the process of his operative research he made important developments in surgical instruments which were patented and bear his name. This aspect of his work was highly regarded, and at the time of his death he had been invited to take sabbatical leave to complete his studies in the University of Leeds for a PhD. He was a member of the British Orthopaedic Association and of the Biological Engineering Society. Unfortunately Tom's last years were beset with personal problems and intermittent ill health. In 1974 he had to have a cardiac pacemaker, but he coped courageously with it and only last summer was sailing and walking the hills in Cumbria without difficulty and with great enjoyment. He was devoted to the countryside and especially to the streams and coast of his native Whitby, which he loved dearly. A self-confessed romantic and sentimentalist, he indulged his wide interests in painting, photography, and sailing—not only for his own self-expression but for the great enjoyment of his close friends, with whom he shared his many gifts.

Tom was a big man in every way. He was extraordinarily generous to his colleagues and friends. His presence enlivened social gatherings, though in many ways he was shy and had a natural dignity and reserve. He devoted himself to his sons' welfare and upbringing in the face of difficulty and uncertainty; and his pleasure at each of their achievements was unbounded, although it was not expressed with ostentation. He was a complex personality, and his protean interests did not lessen his responsibilities but led to conflicts in his own aims and direction which were further compounded by his periods of illness in latter years. His loyalty to his family, his devotion to his patients, colleagues, and many friends, are sorely missed. With his passing we have lost a dear friend whose life of service meant so much. He is survived by his wife Barbara and his two sons.—JMSP.

J A CORKEY MD, FRCSI, DOMS

Mr Allison Corkey, formerly consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Benn Ulster Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, died suddenly on 7 March. He was 73.

Joseph Allison Corkey was a son and grandson of the manse. He was born in Belfast and educated at the Royal Academical Institution there. He had a lifelong interest in his old school, on the governing body of which he served for over 30 years. At the time of his death he had been honorary secretary of the board of governors for nine years. In 1968 he was president of the Old Instonians Association. After studying at the Queen's University of Belfast he graduated in medicine with first class honours in 1930. He took the FRCSI in 1932, proceeded MD in 1933, and took the diploma in ophthalmic medicine and surgery the same year. During part of this period he served as a demonstrator in the university department of pathology. Having decided on a career in ophthalmology, Corkey continued his postgraduate study at Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, London, and at the First University Eye Clinic in Vienna.

It was still common in Belfast in the 1930s for the specialty of ophthalmology to be combined with that of otosalaryngology. When in 1934 Corkey was appointed assistant ophthalmic surgeon in the Benn Ulster Hospital he was the first in Belfast to be appointed in a teaching hospital purely as an ophthalmologist. In 1936 he joined the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital as a clinical assistant in ophthalmology, becoming a full member of the honorary staff in 1939. The confidence his colleagues had in him is shown by his election as honorary secretary of the medical staff in 1950 and 1951 and chairman in 1963 and 1964. In 1965 the Benn Ulster Hospital was closed on amalgamation with the kindred departments of the Royal Victoria Hospital. A new eye and ear clinic was opened, and by that time Corkey was senior ophthalmic surgeon, which post he held until his retirement in 1972. He also served in the Lagan Valley Hospital. He was engaged in clinical teaching from the time of his first hospital appointment. He undertook further responsibility in teaching when in 1964 he was appointed lecturer in ophthalmology in the Queen's University of Belfast, holding the post until his retirement.

He joined the BMA in 1930 and was an active member throughout his life. He held many offices, including membership of the Ophthalmic Group Committee, the Northern Ireland Council, and the Representative Body. He was president of the Northern Ireland Branch from 1971 to 1975. In 1971 he was elected a fellow of the BMA. He was president of the Irish Ophthalmological Society in 1965. Mr Corkey is survived by his wife Kay and by two daughters and two sons, one of whom is a doctor.—HGC.

J WALTER

MA, BM, BCH, FRCP, FRCR, DMRE, DHMSA

Dr Joseph Walter, formerly consultant radiotherapist at Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield, died on 6 February. He was 68.

Joseph Walter was born at Salford on 17 December 1910 and educated at Manchester Grammar School, where he won a State scholarship to Oxford. He was senior classical scholar at Oriel College but transferred to a medical course. He graduated BA in natural science with honours in 1933 and continued his medical studies at King's College Hospital as Bovey Yeo scholar. In 1936 he graduated MA, BM, BCH. After house appointments at King's and Dulwich Hospital and taking the MRCP in 1939, he joined the staff of the Sheffield Radium Centre in 1940 as assistant medical officer. In 1943 he became deputy director of the Sheffield National Centre for Radiotherapy and retained the post until 1964. As senior consultant at the centre he was concerned in the major reorganisation of the radiotherapy services and the development of Weston Park Hospital, which was opened in 1970. With Professor H Miller he wrote *A Short Textbook of Radiotherapy*, and this has been the mainstay of generations of trainees. First published in 1950, it reached its fourth edition just before his death. In 1971 he published *Cancer and Radiotherapy*, a textbook for nurses, and a second edition appeared in 1976. A thesis of his on the natural history of cavernous haemangioma resulted in the cessation of the use of radiotherapy for this condition.

Dr Walter's professional life was devoted to the practice of radiotherapy and the care of the cancer sufferer in the widest sense. He was probably one of the earliest true oncologists, and those who worked with him were impressed by his clinical ability and the humanitarianism that he strove to pass on to generations of postgraduate trainees, students, nurses, and radiographers. He had a vast store of medical knowledge, and this, combined with an active mind and a fund of common sense, enabled him to provide the authoritative opinion often sought by his colleagues with difficult patients. When artificial radioactive isotopes became clinically available he developed a keen interest in the use of radioactive gold for the control of malignant effusions and pioneered the development of radioactive yttrium for this purpose. He was concerned in the early work with cytotoxic agents and had treated patients with nitrogen mustard in the late 1940s. He was an honorary clinical lecturer in radiotherapy until his retirement, an examiner for the fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists for several years, and a member of its Fellowship Board. He became a founder member of the Whole-time Consultants Association, a member of its council and its honorary secretary, steering it through a difficult period when it was necessary to establish the prestige of the whole-time service. He was able to see the organisation disbanded, its objectives having been achieved. An active Rotarian, he served as a Rotary representative on the Sheffield Council for Social Services. He was treasurer of the Aesculapian Society. In 1974 he was elected FRCP, and in the same year he obtained the diploma in the history of medicine of the Society of Apothecaries and became an honorary clinical lecturer in the department of the history of medicine in the University of Sheffield.

Dr Walter will be sadly missed. He is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.—FEN.

W E WHAITE LMSSA

Dr W E Whaite, who was formerly in general practice at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, died on 14 February. He was 79.

Walter Edward Whaite was born at Blackpool in 1899 and spent his childhood at Cheetham Hill, Manchester. Leaving school at the age of 14, he worked in chemists' shops and elsewhere. At the same time he studied for and passed the pharmaceutical chemist examinations, but his overriding ambition was to study medicine. During the ensuing years, with the help and encouragement of his future wife Isabella, he continued his studies at Manchester University and Charing Cross Hospital. He qualified in 1940. After house appointments at Manchester he went into general practice at Chorlton-cum-Hardy and over the next 25 years built up a thriving practice. In 1963 he retired to Henbury, Macclesfield, but retained some of his old patients and also did locum work for doctors in the neighbourhood. Up to the time of his death he was medical officer at the Mary Dendy Hospital, Great Warford. Dr Whaite was a fellow of the Manchester Medical Society and of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.