

life in Milford on Sea, where with two others he undertook the refurbishing of an old Baptist church, writing an extensive history of the church.

Tommy had a strong faith and was a keen woodworker, his garage being fitted out with a lathe. A real character, he was determined to survive despite at least six more coronaries. He is survived by his wife, Stella, and their son and daughter.—RD.

H R SMART

BM, BCH, DLO

Dr H R Smart, who had been a general practitioner in Chingford, Essex, and a clinical assistant in ear, nose, and throat surgery, died on 9 October after a short illness.

Harold Reginald Smart graduated in medicine at Oxford University in 1945 and then did national service in the Royal Air Force. Subsequently he married Margaret Hooper; they had met in 1945 at the Whittington Hospital, where she had been a house physician and he ear, nose, and throat registrar. He moved on to be a registrar at Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, and, in 1957, went into general practice in Chingford. He continued as a clinical assistant in ear, nose, and throat work at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and later at the Brompton Hospital, and the Connaught Hospital.

In 1983 Harold retired from general practice but continued ear, nose, and throat work. During this time he attended the North East London Polytechnic part time to study law, in which he had always had an interest. An interested and informed listener to music, he encouraged his wife to buy and practise the organ and then enjoyed hosting occasional professional organ recitals given at home, for the most part in aid of the Forest Choir. He is survived by Margaret and by one daughter and three sons.—PMcK.

R A N McMATH

MD, DPH

Dr R A N McMath, formerly chest physician to the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority, died on 3 October aged 81.

Robert Alexander Nassau McMath was born in Belfast and educated at the Royal Belfast Academic Institution and Queen's University. After graduating MB, BCH, BAO in 1930 he worked in Harrogate, South Shields, and Ulverston. He took the DPH in 1933 and later the tuberculous diseases diploma while in Cardiff. In the early postwar years he was district clinical tuberculosis officer in Essex, based at Southend on Sea. On his return to his native city in 1948 he was appointed consultant, in charge of Durham Street Chest Clinic and out-patient clinics in the hospitals of County Antrim. His career spanned a period of great change in respiratory medicine and saw the decline of tuberculous diseases.

Robert placed great value on friendship and company and was elected president of his school's past pupils association, the Old Instonians. He was also captain of Holywood Golf Club. His family and beloved garden occupied the remainder of his leisure time. He is survived by his wife, Nora, and four children.—DGM.

H D B NORTH

MSC, MB, CHB, MFCM, DPH

Dr H D B North, formerly medical officer of health for Neward and Southwell Rural District Councils, died on 23 October. He was 87.

Harold Deacon Barker North was born in Felixstowe but was brought up in Bradford, where his family subsequently lived. He studied chemistry at Imperial College, London, graduating BSc in 1923. At the age of 26 he went to India, and he remained there, working as a chemist, for four years before returning to England to study medicine. He graduated in 1935 at Manchester University and in 1936 became assistant medical officer at Stoke-on-Trent Hospital. At the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a hygiene officer with the rank of major. He served in Nigeria, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany and was awarded the Defence Medal. After the war he continued his career in medicine and became assistant medical officer of health for Wimbleton and then Swindon. He then became medical officer of health for Carlton and Arnold Urban District Councils and West Bridgford and Bingham Rural District Councils, serving for 12 years before taking up his appointment at Newark and Southwell. During this time he was also assistant county medical officer and school medical officer for Nottinghamshire County Council.

On retirement Dr North moved to the north Norfolk coast and became president of the Sheringham branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two grandchildren.—DMBN.

J F BEREEN

OBE, MB, BCH, BAO, FFARCS, FFARCSI

Dr J F Bereen, formerly consultant neuroanaesthetist at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, died on 7 October aged 74.

James Frederick Bereen was born on 6 July 1913 in Belfast and educated at Christian Brothers School and Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated in medicine in 1937. At university "Minty" took an active part in a wide range of student affairs, becoming president of the students' representative council, vice president of the students' union, and officer cadet regimental sergeant major in the officers training corps. After a house appointment in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, he trained in anaesthetics at Stockport Infirmary. At the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and by 1945 had attained the rank of major. He spent most of the war in north Africa, where his career in neuroanaesthesia started. It soon became clear that the only way to reduce the high rate of infection and mortality from missile wounds to the head was to form self contained forward neurosurgical units.

Dr Bereen joined a unit attached to the 8th Army and was usually close to, and occasionally beyond, the front line. Early surgery with expert anaesthetic care soon brought about dramatic improvement in the outlook for severe penetrating head wounds. After the war Dr Bereen became one of the few full time neuroanaesthetists in the United Kingdom on his appointment to the department of neurosurgery in Belfast. In those days operating theatre time for neurosurgery was scarce. The patient often had ventriculography at 8 am and a craniotomy in the evening when the general surgical lists were over. Dr Bereen was one of the

pioneers in the use of scoline as a muscle relaxant in electroconvulsive therapy.

Known for his quiet efficiency, his calmness in a crisis, and his tolerance and friendship towards young and inexperienced neurosurgeons, Dr Bereen was awarded the OBE in 1974, two years before his retirement. He was happily married for 47 years and is survived by his wife, Ada, and by his son, Frederick. His daughter, Janet, a radiographer in the Royal Victoria Hospital, predeceased him in 1972.—DSG.

A P ROBERTSON

MB, CHB

Dr A P Robertson, formerly a general practitioner in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, died on 22 November aged 77.

Archibald (Archie) Pollock Robertson was born in Glasgow in 1910 and graduated in medicine from Glasgow University in 1933. After residential hospital posts in the London area he joined a practice in Harpenden in 1936. At the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 he joined the navy. He served in destroyers throughout the war and was a medical officer on board HMS *Cossack* when it rescued the British seamen from the *Altmark* in 1940. He ended the war as a lieutenant commander and returned to his practice in Harpenden. A fervent supporter of the National Health Service, he resigned from his practice in 1948 and established a new one, which grew steadily. When he retired through ill health in 1973 he left a thriving primary health care team that offered a full range of services, including inpatient general and maternity care at the local general practitioner hospital.

After his retirement Archie continued to live in Harpenden. A kind and caring practitioner, he had never permitted his heavy workload to lower the high standards he set himself. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, whom he married in 1936, and by a son and daughter.—JLM.

J H COUPER

LRCP&SED, LRFPSGLAS

Dr J H Couper, who was a partner in a general practice in Manchester for 40 years, died on 11 October after a short illness. He was 68.

James Hart Couper—Jim—qualified in medicine in Glasgow in 1943 and was soon in active service in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Burma campaign. A quiet, kind, and thinking man, he was a keen golfer, but his playing days were cut short by a persistent shoulder complaint. He turned his attention to sailing and became completely addicted to his boat. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, and five grandchildren. His son, Dr Donald Couper, entered the practice last year.—JW.

Correction

Dr L E L Ridge

We regret that two errors occurred in the obituary on Dr L E L Ridge (21 November, p 1356). Dr Ridge died on 21 June, not July. Secondly, the second paragraph should have begun: "Leonard Eric Leslie Ridge was born in Bassingham, Huntingdonshire, on 7 August 1919. He grew up in Enfield, where his father was in practice with his grandfather, who had founded the practice in the 1880s."

