

OBITUARY

G ARMITAGE

MC, TD, MD, CHM, FRCS

Mr George Armitage, formerly consultant surgeon to the General Infirmary at Leeds, died on 30 May while visiting an old friend in America. He was 83.

George Armitage was born at Rothwell, near Leeds, on 20 April 1896, the son of a brickmaker. Educated at the village school and at Ackworth, he entered Leeds Medical School in 1912. In 1916, as a subaltern in the Royal Artillery, he was engaged in the battle of the Somme, after which he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in the field. The following year he took



part in the battle of Passchendaele and was awarded a bar to his decoration. In 1918 he returned to the medical school and in 1921 graduated with first-class honours and was awarded the William Hey gold medal as the most outstanding student of the year. He then demonstrated anatomy in the medical school and in 1923 was appointed house surgeon to Sir Berkeley Moynihan, the father figure of the Leeds surgical school at that time. In 1925 he took the FRCS. In 1929 he became a Rockefeller travelling fellow and spent one year with Harvey Cushing at the Peter Brigham Hospital in Boston, an experience that left a deep impression on him, and from which he gained the degree of MD. As a result of this experience he promoted the first neurosurgical service in Leeds, but in 1933 he was appointed consultant surgeon to the General Infirmary, Leeds, and Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, and consultant to the Ministry of Pensions at Chapel Allerton.

Within a few years of his appointment, George, as he was affectionately known to generations of medical students, had established a reputation as a great surgical teacher and technician and as a result, through the late 'thirties until his retirement in 1961, he built up a huge public and private practice. His concern for all his patients, and particularly for the relatives of those who were dangerously ill or dying, was one of his greatest attributes, as also was his memory for things long past, when he was able, with little more than a hint, to remember details of the family life of a patient who had returned with some recurrent illness. He was a member of the Moynihan Travelling Club and as a result travelled widely through Europe and the United States, and there were few surgeons of any stature that George Armitage did not personally know. In 1956 he was invited by Sir Harry Platt to represent the Royal College

of Surgeons as an official delegate to the USSR, and this he always regarded as one of the highlights of his surgical career.

In addition to surgery he led a full life in the world outside the hospital. He built up a Friesian pedigree herd on his home farm of which he was justly proud. He played golf with an ability and pleasure known only to a few, and this achievement is commemorated in the Armitage Cup, which is annually played for on his favourite golf course at Alwoodley, Leeds. He was an excellent shot. For many years after the first world war he remained in the Territorial Army and was finally awarded the Territorial Decoration. He retired from the NHS in 1961 and then put all his tremendous energies into the family business and eventually became the chairman of Armitage Bricks, a position which he held until 1976. By those who live on, particularly those who had the privilege to be taught by him and to work with him, George Armitage will be most remembered for the warmth which he brought to his personal relationships with his friends, colleagues, patients, and staff. He is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.—FGS.

A TREVOR JONES

MD, FRCP, DPH

Dr A Trevor Jones, formerly provost of the Welsh National School of Medicine, died suddenly at Cardiff on 9 June. He was 78.

Alan Trevor Jones was born on 24 February, 1901 at Pengam, Glamorganshire. He



graduated in the University of London, having spent his undergraduate years first in the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire at Cardiff, and subsequently at University College Hospital, London. From the outset of his career he began to

develop an interest in administration and in public health in Wales. After being medical officer of health at Carmarthen he joined the staff of the Welsh Board of Health as medical officer. Two years later he was appointed hospital officer for Wales under the Emergency Medical Services Scheme. After the war he helped to produce the hospital survey of South Wales and Monmouthshire, later becoming medical officer to the newly established Welsh Hospital Board.

Recognising the vital importance for Wales of training more doctors, he then became increasingly interested in the work of the medical school at Cardiff, and was appointed

to the provostship of the medical school in 1955. His contribution to the administrative field of academic medicine in Wales was truly great. He laboured unceasingly in the interests of the Welsh National School of Medicine, and his efforts were crowned with success with the opening of the new Medical Teaching Centre in Cardiff, combining the Welsh National School of Medicine and the University Hospital of Wales on one site.

Throughout his career Alan Trevor Jones showed outstanding breadth of vision and farsightedness, qualities which, combined with kindness and a lively sense of humour, made him an ideal leader of men. He retired from the provostship in 1969 but continued to serve as a member of the board of governors and later the hospital management committee for a number of years. His generous spirit will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Gwyneth and by his son, who is a paediatrician, and his daughter, who is married to a doctor.—JPDM.

F W ROBERTSON

MA, MD, DOMS

Mr F W Robertson, formerly consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, died on 2 June at his home in Cardiff. He was 82.

Frederick William Robertson, "Robbie" to all his colleagues and many of his patients, graduated in medicine at Dublin University in 1920 and took the MA and MD degrees in 1922 and the diploma in ophthalmic medicine and surgery in 1926. After serving as an assistant at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital he became consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Royal Gwent Hospital. He retired in 1965, but continued in private practice for a further 10 years. As a young man he took an active part in amateur dramatics and was an expert conjurer, gaining admission to the exclusive Magic Circle. He was also a keen orchid grower and became president of the local horticultural society and the Orchid Society. He was a great sportsman and loved racing and fishing, which he was able to continue to within a few months of his death. Mr Robertson is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.—GWH.

R G ANDERSON

MB, CHB, MRCP

Dr R G Anderson, who was formerly in general practice at Headington, Oxford, died on 18 May. He was 67.

Robert Gardner Anderson was born on 8 September 1911 at Glasgow, where his father was a pathologist. He was educated at Queen's Park School and then studied medicine at Glasgow University and the Royal Infirmary, graduating in 1935. After 18 months of hospital

appointments he moved to Shropshire and started in general practice, which was to be his life's work, and he married in 1938. The outbreak of war the following year interrupted his career and he was called up for service in the RAMC, serving first in Scotland and later in Malta, Sicily, and Italy. He rose to the rank of captain.

Soon after demobilisation he joined a partnership at Headington, Oxford, where his standard of medicine and concern for his patients and their welfare quickly gained him the esteem of the community, to whom he gave devoted service until he retired in 1975. He was a member from its early days of the Royal College of General Practitioners and also of the Oxford Medical Society. After his retirement he continued to live at Headington, where he was a popular figure with a cheery word of greeting for his former patients and friends. A keen sportsman, he played hockey, tennis, and golf with enthusiasm. Dr Anderson is survived by his wife and daughter.—JAC.

GEORGIANA M BONSER

MD, FRCP

Dr Georgiana Bonser, formerly reader in experimental pathology and cancer research at Leeds University and consultant in pathology at St James's Hospital, Leeds, died on 9 June. She was 81.

Georgiana May Duthie was born on 5 May 1898. She studied medicine at Manchester University and King's College Hospital, London, and graduated MB, ChB in 1920. In 1923 she proceeded MD with distinction and during the same year became president of the women's union of Manchester University. With a travelling scholarship she spent a

year at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and while there she met her future husband Mr Kenneth Bonser, an architect. From 1927 until her retirement Dr Bonser was engaged in cancer research at Leeds University. She worked first on thoracic cancer and later on the hormonal and genetic aspects of mammary and testicular cancer. She and her colleagues also undertook an investigation of the metabolism and carcinogenic properties of aromatic amines.

Dr Bonser lectured in the USA on several occasions. In 1956 she was invited by the Indian Government to lecture at the Cancer Research Centre in Bombay. The following year she was appointed to the Ministry of Health's committee on cancer risks in food additives and preservatives. In 1959 she took part in an international symposium on cancer held in Israel, and was the only woman scientist among the 25 cancer research experts who had come from all over the world. Here an audience of more than 3000 applauded her comprehensive and easily understood replies to questions on carcinogenesis.

After her retirement in 1963 she attended a breast clinic at Leeds Infirmary each Friday, and on other days continued to occupy a room at the cancer research laboratories in Woodhouse Lane as an adviser. In 1965 she was

appointed to the scientific subcommittee on poisonous substances in agriculture and food storage. She was the cancer expert and the only woman among the 22 members.

Dr Bonser took the MRCP in 1945 and was elected FRCP in 1954. She joined the BMA in 1922. In 1953 she became the first woman chairman of its Leeds Division, and at the division's golden jubilee dinner was invested with her badge of office by Dr E A Gregg, chairman of Council of the BMA. In 1959-60 she was president of the Medical Women's Federation. She was joint author of *Human and Experimental Breast Cancer* (1961). In her leisure moments she studied art and modern languages.

Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir EDWARD GREESON

KBE, CB, MD

Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Greeson, who was medical director-general of the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1952, died on 10 June. He was 90.

Clarence Edward Greeson was born on 29 November 1888, the son of a clergyman, and educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University, where he graduated in medicine in 1910. He proceeded MD in 1913 and became a surgeon in the Royal Navy the following year. He served throughout the first world war and was present at the battles of Heli-



goland Bight, the Falkland Islands, and Gallipoli. In 1927 he served in the Shanghai Defence Force with the 12th battalion Royal Marines. During the second world war he was fleet medical officer to the Mediterranean Fleet from 1939 to 1942 and was present at the battle of Cape Matapan, when three Italian cruisers and two destroyers were sunk in a night action.

In 1945 he was appointed CB. He became medical director-general of the Royal Navy at the end of 1948, when the full effects of demobilisation were being felt and much rebuilding of the naval medical services and reserves was necessary. Under his guidance the best use was made of limited resources, and medical, dental, nursing, and other staffs were deployed in such a manner that failure and breakdown were avoided. Among the problems he dealt with successfully were the pay of medical, dental, and nursing officers and the conditions of service of male nurses in the sick bay staff. He fostered the creation of the atomic section of the RN Medical School at Alverstoke, where the Naval Medical Service introduced courses in radiological defence open to practitioners and nurses from the three services and to civilians. He sponsored the recognition of RN hospitals at the three home ports as training schools for General Nursing Council qualifications.

Sir Edward was made KBE in 1950. He retired from the Royal Navy in 1952 and lived in Alderney, Channel Islands. His first and second wife predeceased him and he is survived by his third wife and by his stepdaughter.

R M THOMAS

LRCP&SI&LM

Dr R M Thomas, who was in general practice in Hampshire, died suddenly on 23 January. He was 47.

Robert Michael Thomas spent his early childhood at Newport in Gwent before going to Clifton College, where he represented the school at rugby. On leaving, he began national service in the RASC, in which he was commissioned in 1950. Subsequently he transferred to the second Monmouthshire Regiment, where he eventually became regimental medical officer. He embarked briefly on a business career, but without great enthusiasm, and had reached his middle twenties before yielding to an urge to take up medicine. He surmounted the hurdles of the preclinical subjects and entered Trinity College, Dublin, where he qualified in 1961. After pre-registration posts at the Royal Gwent and St Woolos hospitals, Newport, he entered group practice at Risca and Crosskeys in January 1963 and proved a most congenial companion and conscientious practitioner before leaving in December 1976. He was successful in an application to take over the practice at Cowplain in Hampshire, and he worked there until his unexpected death.

Michael Thomas was a big and friendly man. He was never out of humour, and animosity was entirely foreign to him. Being absorbed with his family and practice affairs, his extramural activities were limited, but he did find time to act as honorary secretary to the Gwent Division of the BMA. Well loved by his patients and popular with his colleagues, he had proved an ideal member of group practice, and his departure from Gwent was a genuine loss to the community. He is survived by his wife Marjorie and their two children, and by a daughter and son of a previous marriage.—BAT.

J B BAMFORD

MRCS, LRCP, MRCGP, DA

Dr Brian Bamford, who at the time of his retirement in 1971 had been in general practice at Ely, Cambridgeshire, for 36 years, died suddenly at his Norfolk home on 4 June. He was 70.

James Brian Bamford was born at Oldham, Lancashire, in 1908 and educated at Cranleigh



School. He qualified from St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1932. After posts at Chichester and at Barts he took over a large practice at Ely in 1935. With a strong Army tradition in the family he volunteered for service at the outbreak of the second world war. In 1940 he

took the diploma in anaesthetics and served as an anaesthetist with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy, reaching the rank of major and being mentioned in dispatches. Returning to Ely at the end of the war, he again threw himself with enthusiasm into the work of his practice and the life of the city. He gave unstintingly of his time to many organisations.

particularly those concerned with sport and youth. The Palace School for severely handicapped girls was a special interest of his.

In 1954, at the age of 45, he suffered a coronary thrombosis, but, after a period of convalescence, returned to a full professional and public life. He was a family doctor in the true sense and was untiring in his efforts to obtain the very best for all his patients. The close links now existing between the local RAF Hospital and the people of Ely and district are largely due to his efforts. Many medical officers who have served at Ely remember his generous hospitality in the 1950s and 60s. A member of the old insurance committee, he later served as a member of the Isle of Ely Executive Council and, after amalgamation, the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Executive Council. During his career he was also vice-chairman of the local medical committee; chairman of the Isle of Ely Division of the BMA; president of the Cambridgeshire Branch of the BMA; and president of the Cambridge Medical Society. He was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and an Upjohn fellow in 1960. In 1965 he was high sheriff of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, and later appointed a deputy lieutenant, but he did not let these duties isolate him from his patients and continued to play a full part in the practice. He had served for many years as a sidesman and member of the parochial church council of his parish church. His enthusiasm and genius for organisation while chairman of a local charitable trust have resulted in a permanent memorial to him in the city with the recent completion of a block of residential flats for the elderly which has been named after him. Dr Bamford is survived by his wife Mollie and by his son and daughter.—JLH.

D A ROSS HADDON

MC, MD

Dr D A Ross Haddon died on 13 June at Hawick, Roxburghshire, where he had practised for 46 years. He was 89.

David Alexander Ross Haddon was born on 5 February 1890 at Hawick, where his father was a solicitor and banker. He was educated at Fettes College and Edinburgh University, graduating in medicine in 1913 and proceeding MD in 1919. At the outbreak of the first world war he was house physician to Professor Russell in the Royal Infirmary. He had been a Territorial since 1906, so he mobilised with the 9th Royal Scots and went to France with them as a combatant staff officer. He was wounded and subsequently rejoined his battalion as regimental medical officer. He later served in the 19th Field Ambulance and 14th General Hospital and was awarded the Military Cross.

In 1919 he returned to Hawick and went into partnership with Dr Barrie, continuing in active general practice until 1965. He had a flourishing practice covering a large area of the Borders. Always intensely interested in people and their welfare, he shared their joys and supported them in their sorrows. His work and his life gave him immense satisfaction. In his early days he covered the country practice by using a motorcycle and often had to walk to remote cottages. He enjoyed doing most of his work in his patients' homes, and rarely were they referred to

hospital, except for surgery, and even then he often travelled 50 miles to Edinburgh to be present or assist at their operation.

Dr Ross Haddon felt a warm bond with all who had shared his wartime experiences and took a keen interest in ex-servicemen's associations. He actively supported the Red Cross Association, especially during the second world war. He was police surgeon and trades and factory doctor. At the start of the NHS he was chairman of the local medical committee and a member of the Borders Hospitals Board for 19 years. He took a particularly keen interest in the local cottage hospital and all local affairs. He loved the Border Country and nothing gave him greater pleasure in his leisure hours than to be out on the hills with his dog and his gun, with which he was no mean performer. He served his community well and was much loved by his patients. He is survived by a son and three daughters.—IM.

R LEISHMAN

MD, FRCPGLAS, DOMS

Dr Robert Leishman, formerly consultant ophthalmologist in the Victoria Infirmary and Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, died on 1 May. He was 69.

Robert Leishman was born on 1 March 1910 and educated at Stirling High School and Glasgow University, where he graduated MB, ChB in 1932 after an outstanding undergraduate career. After residency in Glasgow Royal Infirmary he practised in London, directing his interest to ENT and ophthalmology, until he volunteered for duty in the RNVR



and served as a surgeon lieutenant-commander with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines on active service in several theatres of war. Eventually he was recalled to the Government Research Department at Porton, where he worked on defence against biological warfare. He was influenced by his contact with senior ophthalmologists, who stimulated him to study ophthalmology. He was eventually appointed an ophthalmologist to the Royal Navy and finished his RNVR service in London, returning to civilian life in 1946.

He joined the staff of the Tennent Institute in Glasgow University and until his retirement in 1975 enjoyed a full career in ophthalmology. He proceeded MD with honours in 1948 and in addition to work in Glasgow Western Infirmary and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children he became increasingly occupied in clinical research, developing his special interest in vascular disease in the eye. He left the Tennent Institute in 1953 and became senior consultant ophthalmologist in the Victoria Infirmary and Southern General Hospital, where he remained until his retirement. He built up an excellent eye department in the Southern General and was a good and popular teacher, but he will be remembered principally for his research in ophthalmology and

particularly for his work on the effects of vascular disease on the eye, which brought the award of the Treacher Collins prize in 1954.

Dr Leishman built up an extensive private practice in addition to a very personal style of hospital practice. His opinion was highly valued by colleagues and patients alike, and he was a popular teacher of undergraduates and postgraduates. In his later years, when he was less active in research, he took particular pleasure in teaching, and he encouraged many young doctors along their chosen specialties, which were not necessarily ophthalmology. He was supported by his wife Elsie, who survives him, and also by their son.—JSC.

T F ANDERSON

CMG, OBE, MA, MD, DTM&H

Dr T F Anderson, formerly director of medical services, Kenya, died suddenly on 13 June. He was 77.

Theodore Farnworth Anderson was born on 22 October 1901, the son of a clergyman, and educated at Rugby; Trinity Hall, Cambridge; and University College Hospital. He qualified in 1924, took the MB, BCh the following year, and entered general practice in Kenya. He joined the Colonial Medical Service in 1928 and was appointed medical officer in Kenya. In 1930 he proceeded MD and took the diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene. At the beginning of the second world war he was commissioned in the RAMC and was mentioned in dispatches. After demobilisation in 1945 with the rank of colonel he became director of medical services, Somaliland Protectorate, and continued as such until 1949, when he was appointed director of medical services, HM Overseas Medical Services, Kenya. He was also a member of the Legislative Council of Kenya from 1950 to 1957, when he retired from both appointments.

Dr Anderson was appointed OBE in 1943 and CMG in 1956. He was a liveryman of the Society of Apothecaries and a freeman of the City of London. After his retirement he lived at Hawkhurst in Kent. He is survived by his wife Belle and by his two daughters.

F J C MATTHEWS

FRCS(ED)

JKA writes: The death of Freddie Matthews (obituary, 26 May, p 1432) will be mourned by all his former housemen and registrars. He taught us and trusted us, and was always available for advice over the telephone, to come and "look over the shoulder," or to scrub up and guide us through tricky tangled adhesions in the belly. Nurses adored him. Patients trusted him. He was not only a sound surgeon: he was a gentleman. Medicine in the Midlands is the poorer for his loss.

A memorial service for the late Mr A M A Moore (obituary, 5 May, p 1222) will be held at the Church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4, on Wednesday 4 July at 11.45 am.