

Obituaries

REGINALD PASSMORE

b 16.3.10; d 28.7.99. BM Oxon. 1935; MA, DM Oxon. 1942; FRCPE 1976.

Dr Reginald Passmore, DM Oxon., FRCPE, died on 28 July 1999 aged 89.

Reginald Passmore was born on 16 March 1910 at Hinckley, Leicestershire, son of Joseph Ernest Passmore, a general practitioner whose family originated in North Devon. After Lindley Lodge School, Reg went to Tonbridge School from which he obtained a scholarship to Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1928. He graduated with First Class Honours in Physiology in 1931 and he was awarded a Senior Hulme Scholarship at Brasenose College where he carried out research work on nutrition and enzyme chemistry under Professor Rudolph Peters in the department of Biochemistry.



In 1932 he went to St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, with an entrance scholarship and qualified BM BCh in 1935. From 1935 to 1937 he was a Gwyneth Pretty student of the University in the department of Pathology at Cambridge under Professor H.R. Dean doing research on the chemistry of bacteria. During this period he had six years continuous experience of teaching physiology being, from 1931 to 1935, tutor in physiology to Lincoln and Brasenose colleges, Oxford, and from 1935 - 1937 supervisor in physiology to St. John's College and Jesus College, Cambridge.

In 1937 Reg joined the Indian Medical Service with a permanent commission and was appointed Assistant Director, Nutrition Laboratories, Coonoor, South India working under Dr W.R. Aykroyd until 1940 on the analysis

of foods and vitamins. By this time he had published seventeen papers mostly on biochemistry and nutrition for which he was awarded the DM degree at Oxford.

After three months military training he was posted to the Bangalore Military Hospital where he became interested in smallpox. In May 1940 he went as battalion medical officer to the Middle East and served with the 4th and 5th Indian Divisions in the Western Desert, Iraq, Eritrea and Cyprus. On returning to India he was promoted to medical specialist, and worked in this capacity for over two years in large base hospitals in Calcutta and Lucknow where he treated casualties from the Burma front and became interested in the anaemias and malnutrition. Later he was given command of the medical division of a hospital in Saigon attaining the rank of Lieut-Colonel and where he stayed for one year before returning to a civil appointment at Coonoor early in 1946. He was Director of the Nutritional Research Laboratories until he was able to hand

over to an Indian scientist. Leaving Coonoor he was appointed to the Central Research Institute at Kasauli, Punjab, where he worked on rabies.

In 1947 he returned to the UK where he joined Professor F.A.E. Crew at the department of Social Medicine in the University of Edinburgh Medical School researching in industrial physiology. Later he moved to the University of Edinburgh physiology department, where David Whitteridge was the professor, and there he remained for the rest of his academic career.

In physiology Reg worked on energy expenditure of miners and clerks, and their nutritional requirements. With Professors Sir Stanley Davidson and Peter Meiklejohn he published *Human Nutrition and Dietetics* which later became *Davidson and Passmore* and ran to eight editions,

becoming perhaps the most famous textbook in its field. He also published *Energy, Work and Leisure* and in 1949 *The Scotsman's Food* with Arthur Kitchen being a history of the Scottish diet showing the effects of wartime rationing. In 1968 with Professor J.S. Robson he was editor in chief of the four volume *Companion to Medical Studies* the first printing of which sold all 27,000 copies.

Reg was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1976 and became scientific editor of the *Proceedings* of the College. When the College held its Tercentenary Congress in 1981 he edited the extensive proceedings which is a definitive work. In 1993 he collaborated in the production of *William Cullen and the Eighteenth Century Medical World*. In all he published over 115 scientific papers on a wide range of subjects mainly related to nutrition and energy expenditure. He was on the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy for the Ministry of Health and on the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture.

He was a member of the Expert Committee of WHO/FAO on Energy and Protein Requirements and consultant

for UNICEF in South America in 1948 and for FAO in Thailand in 1951.

He was a passionate golfer and a difficult man to beat on his much loved turf at Gullane, and he accumulated an extensive library of golf history and memorabilia to which he was still adding weeks before he died. His sporting enthusiasms extended to cricket and rugby but latterly from the armchair.

Reg Passmore combined profound learning in his subject and in medicine as a whole with a wide knowledge and appreciation of the arts and humanities. He was a delightful, witty and stimulating conversationalist who had friends and admirers around the globe. Generations of undergraduate and postgraduate students will recall his readily given guidance and encouragement.

In 1933 Reg Passmore married Esme Mussel, a nurse from Hampshire, who died in 1991, and there were three sons all of whom survive. There are six grandchildren.

WS,ARM

JAMES SYME

James Syme, Consultant Paediatrician, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

b 25.8.30; d 12.6.99. MB ChB(Hons) Edinburgh 1954; FRCPE 1967; FRCPG 1978; FRCPL 1991; FRCPCH 1997.

In the sudden death on 12 June 1999 of Dr James Syme Paediatric Medicine and the Royal Colleges of Physicians have been deprived prematurely of one of their most colourful, distinguished and popular personalities. James was a Fifer, born in Lochgelly where he spent his school years. From his father, who was school headmaster, he inherited his love of literature and his ability to come up with an appropriate quotation on any occasion.

James did not however follow his fathers' profession but decided at an early age to study medicine, which he did with resounding success graduating with Honours at the University of Edinburgh in 1954. Not only was he the Ettles scholar, he also carried off prizes in Clinical Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics.

After house jobs in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in surgery with R.L. Stewart and in medicine with D.M. Dunlop, he undertook his military service as Captain in the RAMC serving in the military hospital in Lagos, Nigeria, where he extended his knowledge of tropical medicine. The hospital compound also contained the British school where James first met his future wife Pam who was a teacher there. Shortly after their engagement, Pam was able to help James in dealing with a local smallpox epidemic. They were married in the Military Hospital Church Lagos in 1956.

On returning to Edinburgh he was appointed first SHO then Registrar with J.D.S. Cameron. This was followed by an appointment at the City Hospital with J. Murdoch where he took part in the research work being carried out into the use of antibiotics. As many of the patients in Infectious Disease units are children, James found that he had a particular aptitude for dealing with younger patients and chose to pursue the rest of his medical career in paediatric



medicine. His first paediatric post was as Senior Registrar in Glasgow, mainly at Stobhill Hospital where he helped to develop the Mother and Baby Unit.

In 1965 he began his long service as Consultant Paediatrician in what was then the Northern Group of Hospitals in Edinburgh. Working initially at Leith Hospital and the newborn unit at the Eastern General Hospital as well as the Western General Hospital, he soon established himself as a well-loved and respected clinician. In addition, out-patient clinics were held in West Fife where there was also responsibility for care of the newborn at Dunfermline Maternity Hospital. Latterly, after the closure of the paediatric department at the Western General Hospital, James

moved to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children but continued his special interest in the newborn at the Eastern General Hospital. Contributions to paediatric textbooks and journals reflected his clinical interests in the newborn, tropical medicine and the use of antibiotics.

His administrative skills were increasingly evident and he was greatly in demand as secretary and then chairman of many committees including the National Medical Consultative Committee in Paediatrics. Having obtained the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1958, he was elected Fellow in 1967 and became Secretary of the College in 1971. From that date onward, College affairs took up a significant part of James' life.

Following his secretaryship of the College from 1971-75 he was elected to the Council on which he served from 1976-80 and, after the required interval of one year, from 1981-89, during the last four years of which he was Vice President. The period in which he served on Council and as Vice-President of the College corresponded with an extremely active phase of development within the Colleges, particularly with the various stages of inaugurating the common part II examination and subsequently the separate paediatric examinations. He was closely involved in the work that led to the construction of the Conference Centre and initiated the Overseas Committee. James used his administrative gifts and his ability to get on with people to the full on the many college and inter-college committees that he served as a member, secretary or chairman. Of all these committees, the one which gave him most satisfaction was his chairmanship of the Conference Centre Project Group. In preparation for this he travelled widely to visit other centres and was particularly impressed by the Edmund Burke Conference facilities in Dublin. Much of the evident success of the Queen Mother Conference Centre is due to James' wise influence on the planning decisions made.

His clinical acumen and experience made him much in demand as an external examiner both in this country and overseas. This led to his interest in the Far East, where he was involved in establishing the first overseas examination of the Royal Colleges in Hong Kong. Because of his experience in so many overseas countries James was a natural choice in 1985 as the first chairman of the Overseas Committee of the College which has done so much to integrate overseas Fellows and Members into the activities of the College in their own countries and in Edinburgh.

As chairman of the joint Part II Board of the Royal Colleges from 1989-95, James was closely associated with the redevelopment of the common Part II examination. This work, among others, resulted in him being elected a Fellow of the London College in 1991, a distinction which he greatly appreciated.

James retired from active clinical practice in 1994 and moved house to the Yorkshire Dales, of which he was very fond. His burly figure became as well known in the Dales as it had been in Edinburgh. Involvement in the Parish Council of the local church involved fund raising to allow the church hall to be renovated and upgraded. Anyone who visited him and Pam in Airton was made most welcome and soon realised how much the local community had taken then to their hearts. It is not surprising, therefore, that there was such a large congregation at Kirby Malham church on Friday 18 June to say goodbye to one who meant so much to so many.

Apart from his many clinical and administrative concerns, James enjoyed a happy family life. He was particularly proud of the achievements of his children. His son Peter followed his grandfather and mother into the teaching profession and his daughter Vicky, in addition to her musical accomplishments, is currently Senior Lecturer at the Joint Services combined Staff College. Social occasions gave James great pleasure, and it is reported that he was in great form at his year's 45th reunion held recently.

In retirement he found relaxation in gardening and in walking through the beautiful Yorkshire countryside around his home in Airton. It was while on a walk that he suffered the first effects of the cerebral haemorrhage from which he died shortly afterwards in hospital in Leeds.

James is survived by his wife and their son and daughter and by two grandchildren, to all of whom we offer our warmest sympathy.

AJK

JAMES BRUCE-SMITH 1926-1999

Dr James Bruce-Smith used to love saying, in my presence, that we both graduated on the same day from Edinburgh University. Teasingly, what he would not say was that he graduated MB ChB. and that I graduated MD at the same time.

I was privileged to be his friend for very many years and, like all who knew him well, I admired his integrity, sincerity and dedication to all that was best in the practice of medicine. He was a prime example of the person who had greatness thrust upon him. He was elected Chairman of the Local Medical Committee in the city of Birmingham (UK) which was a major tribute to his abilities. This soon led to his appointment to the Board of Governors of the Teaching Group of Hospitals, which provided specialist services to a Region with a population of five million people. With all the medical talent that that entailed, it was no surprise to all who knew him well when he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors. While in that post he also chaired the Endowment Fund of the constituent hospitals which disbursed £9.0 million per year. When he retired from General Practice he moved to the family's ancestral home in Falkirk. I took advantage of this move by suggesting that he be a member of the Myre Sim Bequest Committee of the College of which he had been, for some years, a Fellow.

James continued with the Chairmanship of the Endowment Fund Committee because he felt it his duty so to do even though this entailed 'commuting' to Birmingham from Falkirk. With the rapid rise in income to the fund it even exceeded the previous disbursement of £9.0 million.

His wife, Maureen, was an essential factor in his success and one always spoke of them as a pair. In her own right she was setting records for recently she took part in the Scottish Country Dance Team who entertained thousands at the Edinburgh Festival on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

I shall miss him terribly but I shall cherish the many years of friendship. We need more of his calibre.

Myre Sim

SUSAN MARY BARCLAY

Dr S.M. Barclay died on 9 April. She was born on 15 January 1959 and graduated MB ChB at the University of Edinburgh in 1981. Dr Barclay became Senior House Officer in Paediatrics at Bradford Hospitals in 1982. After several years in Bradford she moved to Aberdeen and became Registrar in Paediatrics and Honorary Clinical Tutor at Aberdeen Hospitals/University of Aberdeen. She then accepted the post of Clinical Research Fellow at the Department of Child Health at the Aberdeen University where she studied nutrition of very low birth weight infants. In 1994 Dr Barclay was appointed Consultant Paediatrician with an interest in neonatal medicine at the Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. She was elected to the Fellowship in 1996.

DECLAN RENE BARRY

Dr D.R. Barry died recently. He was born on 28 April 1912 in Cork, Ireland. In 1938 Dr Barry graduated MD in Paris and the following year passed the Triple Qualification Examination in Edinburgh. After war service he took a post of Junior Registrar at the Postgraduate Medical School in London. Having passed MRCPE examination in 1951 (selected subject - pathology), he was appointed Assistant Pathologist and later Histopathologist at the London Clinic. In 1963 Dr Barry became Consultant Pathologist to Birmingham & Midland Eye Hospital and Regional Consultant for Ophthalmic Pathology, Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. Dr Barry was a founder member of the Royal College of Pathologists. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1971.

JOHN JOSEPH BOSCO

Professor J.J. Bosco died on 25 April. He was born on 31 January 1949 and graduated MB BS at the University of New South Wales in 1970. Dr Bosco spent several years as a resident in internal medicine in Malaysian and Australian hospitals. In 1980 he was appointed Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine, University of Malaya and Consultant Haematologist at the University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur. Dr Bosco became a leading figure in haematology in Malaysia. He initiated the first bone marrow transplant programme in the country. He was also involved in the continuing medical education, organised under the auspices of the College of Physicians of Malaysia and the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. In 1992 he was appointed Professor of Medicine, Consultant Haematologist and Head of Department of Medicine, University of Malaya. Dr Bosco became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1978. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1996.

ERIC FARQUHARSON DOTT

Dr E.F. Dott died on 8 July. He was born on 3 December 1898 in Colinton and was educated at George Heriot's School and Edinburgh University where he graduated MB ChB in 1925 and obtained a Diploma in Public Health in 1927. Dr Dott chose diseases of children as his special subject for the MRCPE examination in 1929. He then devoted his career to paediatrics and problems of community child health. He was a Physician at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children and Clinical Tutor at

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Dr Dott was a Member of the Scottish Paediatric Society. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1933.

KENNETH PLAYFAIR DUNCAN

Dr K.P. Duncan died on 26 June. He was born on 27 September 1924 in Kilmarnock and graduated MB ChB at St Andrews in 1947. After house jobs in Dundee he joined the RAMC (1948-1950) and then spent a couple of years in general practice in Brighton where he decided to specialise in occupational medicine. In 1958 he became Group Medical Officer, Industrial Group of the Atomic Energy Authority and in 1959 the Medical Adviser of the Radiological Protection Division and the Chief Medical Officer of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Dr Duncan was particularly interested in the prevention of ill health in the production of atomic power. In 1969 he was appointed Head of Health and Safety, British Steel Corporation and in 1975 he became Director of Medical Services to the Health and Safety Executive after the Employment Medical Advisory Service Act and the Health and Safety at Work Act. He reorganised the service completing the training programme for medical advisers. In 1982 he became Deputy Director General with wider responsibilities for the prevention of occupational injury and disease. Dr Duncan was a Founding Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1980. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1976.

FORSTER DONALD HONEYMAN

Dr F.D. Honeyman died in September 1997. He was born on 13 April 1922 and graduated MB BCh BAO at Belfast University in 1944. After house jobs in Belfast and Norfolk he worked for several years at the Chest Clinic in Birmingham. He moved back to Belfast in 1950 and was appointed Registrar at the Chest Hospital, Whiteabbey, Belfast. Dr Honeyman developed an interest in geriatric medicine while working at the Department of Medicine and Geriatric Medicine, Sunderland General Hospital. In 1960 he became a Consultant Physician in Geriatrics, Manor Hospital, Walsall and New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Dr Honeyman became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1986. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1981.

HENRY TAYLOR HOWAT

Professor H.T. Howat died on 29 October 1998. He was born on 16 May 1911 and graduated MB ChB at the University of St Andrews in 1933. During World War II Professor Howat joined the RAMC and served abroad, first with the Middle East Forces and later with the British Liberation Army. After the war he returned to Manchester where in 1948 he was appointed Physician at Manchester Royal Infirmary and a Lecturer in Medicine at Manchester University. In 1972 he was appointed Professor of Gastroenterology, University of Manchester. Professor Howat had a particular interest in pancreatic disease. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1948 and in 1971 he was awarded the CBE. Professor Howat was elected to the Fellowship in 1965.

JOHN KENNETH MCKECHNIE

Dr J.K. McKechnie died on 2 July. He was born on 3 May 1926 in Johannesburg and graduated MB BCh at Witwatersrand, South Africa in 1950. After a year as a house physician in Johannesburg, he moved to Godalming, Surrey to take up the post of Senior House Officer at King George V Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. In 1954 Dr McKechnie decided to join Mahamba Methodist Mission Hospital in Swaziland. He then moved to Glencoe, Natal and started in general practice and at the same time held a part-time appointment as District Surgeon and Medical Officer of Health. In 1960 he was appointed Senior Medical Registrar at the Department of Medicine at the University of Natal Medical School. Dr McKechnie later became part-time Senior Physician and Lecturer at the Department of Medicine, University of Natal Medical School and King Edward V Hospital, Durban. He was also Honorary Visiting Physician at McCord Zulu Hospital, Durban and Honorary Visiting Physician at St. Mary's Mission Hospital, Mariann Hill, Natal. In 1984 Dr McKechnie became a Fellow of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine RACP. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1970.

BERMESHWER PRASAD

Dr B. Prasad died on 15 September 1981. He was born

on 7 January 1925 and graduated MB BS at Patna University in 1947. Dr Prasad obtained his Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1951 while on study leave in the United Kingdom. On his return to India he was appointed Lecturer in Medicine at Darbhanga Medical College where he stayed until 1962 when he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine at Rajendra Medical College, Ranchi, Bihar. Rajendra Medical College later dedicated its Center for Cardiological Diseases to his memory. Dr Prasad was elected to the Fellowship in 1970.

GEORGE HUGH MALCOLM THORNTON

Dr G.H.M. Thornton died on 14 May. He was born on 30 March 1919 and graduated MB ChB at the University of Edinburgh in 1943. Dr Thornton started his medical career as House Physician at Inverness Infirmary. After a while as Physician-in-Training at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, he returned to Inverness Infirmary as Medical Registrar. Dr Thornton's specialty was gastroenterology and when he emigrated to the United States he was appointed Consultant Gastroenterologist at the University of Iowa Medical Center. He then moved to Phoenix, Arizona to take up another consultant post. Dr Thornton was elected to the Fellowship in 1983.