

Obituary

J. L. BROWNLIE, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.S.Ed.

Dr. James L. Brownlie, who died on Nov. 12 in Edinburgh, succeeded the late Dr. John Parlane Kinloch as chief medical officer of the Department of Health for Scotland in 1932 but resigned that post at the end of 1936 after being on sick leave for some time.

James Law Brownlie was a student of Glasgow University and graduated M.B., Ch.B., and five years later received high commendation for his M.D. thesis on the problem of the diphtheria carrier. He also took the Cambridge D.P.H., and during his tenure of office in Edinburgh received the diploma of M.R.C.P.Ed., and was elected F.R.S.Ed. He had been for four years resident medical officer at the Glasgow Corporation fever hospitals and for six years assistant bacteriologist in the Glasgow Corporation laboratory. During this part of his career he contributed papers to medical journals and became known as an investigator of food-borne infections. His next post was that of bacteriologist and pathologist for the County of Lanark. In 1930 he moved to Edinburgh to take up duty as a medical officer of the Department of Health for Scotland, and one of his main tasks was concerned with the co-ordination of the hospital services of Scotland; he also represented his Department on various scientific bodies and committees. Brownlie was honorary secretary of the Section of Micro-Biology (including Bacteriology) at the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. held in Glasgow in 1922, and vice-president of the Section of Public Health when the Association met in Dublin in 1933.

Dr. JOHN WILLIAM LINDSAY, who died at his home in Ealing on Nov. 9, was a practitioner of the "covered-wagon" days in the cattle country of South America. He was born in Aberdeen, where he graduated M.A., M.B., Ch.B., gaining the medals in surgery and in obstetrics, and then joined the South American Missionary Society beginning pioneer medical work in the Paraguayan Gran Chaco in 1900. In 1902 he set up in private practice at Belén in eastern Paraguay, where, except for service in the R.A.M.C. on the western front during the 1914-18 war, he worked until his retirement to England in 1934. He quickly acquired a very great professional reputation, and it was not uncommon for patients to travel six weeks by bullock-cart to see him. In addition to frequent revolutions his locality provided all the excitements of "wild-west" frontier life and, though he was beloved by all, he narrowly escaped many a bullet. A deeply religious man with a strong evangelical leaning he built a local mission-hall, and among other attainments Dr. Lindsay had a knowledge of a dozen dialects and was early attracted to Guaraní, the language of an extinct race, in which, though it had not been reduced to writing, he published a translation of the New Testament which he had made from the original Greek. During the Gran Chaco war of 1932-4, he equipped and managed a military hospital for Paraguayan troops, did much to arouse interest in the work of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, and in the recent war worked with the Ministry of Economic Warfare as Spanish expert until his health broke down. He is survived by his wife and three children (one of them in the I.M.S.) who shared his South American adventures.

Dr. ALEXANDER MACINTYRE, of Airdrie, Lanarkshire, who died some weeks ago at the age of 67, was a native of the Strath of Gairloch, Wester Ross. He studied medicine at the University of Glasgow, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1902, and started work at Airdrie on the first day of 1903 as assistant to the late Dr. Gemmell, whom he succeeded. Apart from two and a half years of service as a medical officer with the Forces in the war of 1914-18 Dr. Macintyre spent all his medical career in that neighbourhood, where his skill and devotion won the regard of all his patients. He was particularly well versed in Gaelic tradition and lore, and a fluent speaker of the language; he helped to edit several Gaelic books. He was a life member of the Glasgow and Inverness Gaelic Society, and an address he gave in January, 1945, was so excellent in matter and manner that the Society had it printed and published in booklet form under the title *Home Culture*. He will be greatly missed not only by his own community but by a wide circle of friends and admirers of his scholarly mind. He had been a member of the B.M.A. since 1917.

Universities and Colleges

THE PLEBISCITE

Statement by Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson

The following statement was made by the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, at a meeting of plastic surgeons held at the College on Nov. 20.

"Every medical practitioner is being asked to give an answer to the following question: Do you wish the Negotiating Committee to enter into discussions with the Minister of Health on the regulations which he is authorized to make by the National Health Services Act? I hope that all practitioners will give this question most serious consideration. I trust that they will not lightly make it difficult for the responsible leaders of the profession to enter into negotiations in which the Minister is now at liberty to take part. It must be borne in mind that a vote in favour of discussions with the Minister does not register approval of the Act in every detail. A vote in favour of discussions does not commit any practitioner to accepting service under the Act. There are parts of the Act which, in the judgment of the majority of the profession, will not give the public the best service. But the Act probably pleases no one entirely. There are obvious dangers to be guarded against. Discussions will, however, provide opportunities for negotiation on many points which still need clarification, in spite of the debates in Parliament. They will also provide opportunities for helping to plan most of the machinery of the Service, and to mould much of the policy which remains to be settled by regulations."

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

John McMichael, M.D., has been appointed to the University Chair of Medicine tenable at the British Postgraduate Medical School, from Oct. 1.

Stuart Dunsmore Elliott, M.D., has been appointed to the University Readership in Bacteriology tenable at the London Hospital Medical College, from Oct. 1.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—15P. J. Blaxland, 15Patricia Chippindale, 14A. T. Cook, 1346J. A. Davis (University Medal), 12F. V. Flynn, 15Kathleen A. M. Frith, 16D. W. S. Gordon, 15A. J. Harrold, J. M. Alderton, Elizabeth J. Allday, R. H. Anthony, J. J. Ashken, M. Atkinson, D. A. Bailey, D. W. Bain, D. N. Balsekar, A. D. Bangham, P. J. Banks, G. F. Barnes, P. J. H. Barron, A. C. Barthels, D. Bartlett, H. N. Baylis, R. W. Bell, A. Benjamin, A. J. Berrill, M. A. Birnstingl, R. W. A. Bottoms, Daphne V. Bousfield, L. W. Bowen, A. C. Boyle, H. G. Broder, M. H. Brook, L. Brotmacher, E. K. Brownrigg, Brenda M. Buck, D. E. Burgess, G. L. Burgess, J. Candy, J. R. Carter, Rosemary Cartledge, C. L. Casimir, F. E. de W. Cayley, F. C. Chesterman, C. J. Christmas, Betty L. Coles, R. B. Coles, H. P. F. Corbin, Anne N. M. Crane, D. W. J. Cullingford, M. J. Cutler, D. G. L. Davies, P. R. Davis, A. J. A. Dawes, P. E. A. de Caestecker, J. F. de la Fresnaye, K. R. Dempster, H. S. de Silva, C. F. Donovan, D. M. D. Evans, M. E. Fearnley, B. R. Finlay, F. J. Fish, M. L. H. Flindt, A. F. Forbat, R. H. Fox, C. J. G. De L. Franklin, F. E. Fraser, J. G. Gant, Mary P. Gibson, C. E. J. Glaisher, H. H. Glatston, S. G. Gordon, Rosemary D. Graham, Helen C. Grant, G. R. Green, C. J. Griffin, G. L. Gryseperdt, A. W. Hagger, G. J. L. Hamilton, N. Hamlin, J. Hankinson, R. P. Harwood, P. J. D. Heaf, I. T. T. Higgins, A. B. Hill, R. D. Hoare, R. K. Hollows, R. J. Howat, A. Hughes, R. W. Hughes, J. R. Ivey, I. Jaffa, G. V. Jaffé, J. James, J. G. Jamieson, C. W. L. Jones, D. W. Jones, K. C. D. Jones, T. G. Jones, P. Jordan, A. R. Kagan, I. A. Kellock, R. E. Kelly, Marjorie A. C. Kuck, M. Kugler, O. G. Lane, J. L. Lawrence, Wendy E. Lewington, Elaine Lister, G. H. Luffingham, J. Lustigman, K. A. McCluskey, I. J. MacDonald, H. W. Macintyre, I. Mackenzie, Freda S. Mackover, R. G. C. MacLaren, R. Macpherson, J. D. Manning, E. A. W. Marien, S. Mattingly, W. R. May, E. V. M. Medill, J. N. Mickerson, R. Moolan-Feroze, I. A. H. Munro, C. P. Newcombe, K. H. Nickol, C. Pearce, R. A. O'G. Pearson, J. H. Pendered, Thelma M. Phelps, B. H. Pickard, Jean Pickford, C. M. C. Potter, Prudence M. Proudlove, J. I. Pugh, J. H. Raphael, Eva M. Raybould, D. D. Rees, M. F. Rémy, D. I. Roberts, J. E. Russell, M. McC. Russell, A. J. Ruzicka, R. C. O. Saunders, Enid Scholfield, Valerie Scotland, A. G. Seaman, R. P. Shields, Patricia D. Shurly, N. R. W. Simpson, I. P. D. W. Skempton, P. A. J. Smith, R. J. H. Smith, J. L. Souster, M. J. Squires, R. J. Stanley, Dorothy M. Stanton, J. E. T. Strickland, M. Strobe, Gwendolyn M. Sutton, G. F. Swann, C. K. M. Thacker, D. M. E. Thomas, I. J. Thomas, H. N. Waller, J. H. Wallis, R. G. Watson, B. G. Wells, J. Whitwell, W. B. Whowell, A. P. H. Wilkinson, J. R. B. Williams, Lorna E. Williams, T. B. Williamson, J. T. Woodall, Joan D. Wrigley, Angela R. Young, C. J. Zerny.

¹ With honours. ² Distinction in pathology. ³ Distinction in hygiene and forensic medicine. ⁴ Distinction in medicine. ⁵ Distinction in surgery. ¹ Distinction in obstetrics and gynaecology.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Digby Chamberlain, Ch.M., F.R.C.S., has been appointed Professor of Surgery in the University, from Oct. 1.

The title of Emeritus Professor has been conferred on William MacAdam, M.D., F.R.C.P. (professor of medicine), Peter Lindsay Sutherland, D.Sc., M.B. (professor of forensic medicine), and Charles Wilfred Vining, M.D., F.R.C.P. (professor of children's diseases).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Meeting of Fellows and Members

At the annual meeting of Fellows and Members on Nov. 13 the President, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., presented the report of the Council. It was desired to create, under a new Charter, Faculties within the College, to elect to the Fellowship, each year, not more than four Members who had been practising dental surgery over a long period, and to grant a Fellowship in Dental Surgery. They were to be congratulated on securing the services of Prof. F. Wood Jones and two new curators for the anatomy department. The John Hunter medal and prize had been awarded to Dr. Joan Margaret Ross for her outstanding work in pathological anatomy. Two prizes of £1,000 each, the gift of Mr. Charles L. Mayer, of New York, had been awarded to Mr. Terence Millin in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of the surgical treatment of the prostate, and to Prof. E. C. Dodds for his researches in the field of the synthetic hormones.

The College and the National Health Service Act

The President added some remarks on the National Health Service Act. There was, he said, much good in the Act, and important concessions had been made by the Minister as a result of their representations. Nevertheless, a good deal of anxiety still prevailed. In fighting for the freedom of the profession they were not fighting for any vested interests, but for an essential freedom of the people. The Lord Chancellor had given the President assurance that specialists who did not join the service would have freedom in an honorary capacity to treat their private patients in hospital, and had accepted an amendment with that in view. He hoped that the Negotiating Committee would continue to enjoy the confidence of the profession.

Mr. C. E. Beare moved:

That this meeting of Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons urges the Council to do its utmost to prevent the penalization of private practice by the restriction of the medical staffs of hospitals to those who take part in the State Medical Service.

He expressed the gratitude of the Fellows and Members to the President and other members of Council who had served on the Negotiating Committee, but considered it not quite clear from the Lord Chancellor's assurance whether the reference was to specialists on the staffs of hospitals in an honorary capacity or to those who were in the Service. The President pointed out that the amendment accepted by the Government inserted the words "whether in an honorary or paid capacity," but Mr. Beare was still doubtful about the interpretation of this amendment. It was possible that those at present on the staffs of hospitals would not be re-elected unless they undertook State service, and he feared they might be debarred from attending private patients in these hospitals. Mr. Dickson Wright seconded the motion.

Dr. H. Guy Dain considered that the accepted amendment made very little difference, for the Minister had stated categorically that he would not allow any private practitioner who was not in the Service to practise in the State hospitals, and this referred not only to the public but to the private wards. If and when the State owned all the hospitals it would be the end of private specialist practice. It would be necessary to establish nursing homes outside the Service, and even then there was no guarantee that they would not be taken over. The President said that the Lord Chancellor's assurance, which had been confirmed by the Minister, must go some way to relieving anxiety, but he fully appreciated Mr. Beare's point, especially as it related not to those already in practice but to those coming into practice in the future and who did not comply. The Negotiating Committee should clear up the point.

On Mr. Beare's motion being put to the vote, twenty-six stood in favour of it, but this number was short of the quorum required under the rules of the College, and a special meeting of Fellows was called for Nov. 29.

At an ordinary meeting of the Council of the College, held on Nov. 14, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., President, in the chair, the Honorary Gold Medal of the College was awarded to Sir Alexander Fleming, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., in appreciation of his distinguished work and particularly in recognition of his discovery of penicillin.

Prof. Ian Aird, F.R.C.S.Ed., professor of surgery at the British Postgraduate Medical School, was elected *ad eundem* to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

It was reported that the trustees of the Sir Halley Stewart Trust had made a grant to the College for a research fellowship, and Mr. H. Fletcher Lunn, anatomical curator, was appointed as the first Sir Halley Stewart Fellow. Mr. Alan C. Perry (London), Sir Heneage Ogilvie (Guy's), and Mr. R. M. Handfield-Jones (St. Mary's) were elected members of the Court of Examiners. Mr. R. J. Last, M.B., anatomical curator, was elected as the first Brand-Sutton Research Scholar. It was reported that the special trustees had elected Mr. F. H. Masina, F.R.C.S., as a Proffit Research Student

for the investigation of the pathology and treatment of carcinoma of the bladder. The Hallett Prize was awarded to Mr. Robert Pope Melville, of the University of Sydney. Hugh Kelson Ford (Epsom College and the London Hospital) was nominated as the fifty-fourth Jenks Scholar.

Diplomas of membership were granted to the 114 successful candidates whose names appeared in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London as recipients of the Licentiate of that College (Nov. 23, p. 799).

Diplomas in Child Health, in Medical Radiotherapy, and in Medical Radio-Diagnosis were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to the successful candidates whose names were included in the report of the meeting of that College.

The following lectures will be delivered at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.) at 5 p.m.: Dec. 5, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Lecture, by Dr. B. D. Pullinger, "Cystic Disease of the Breast: Human and Experimental." Dec. 12, Robert Jones Memorial Lecture, by Mr. W. Rowley Bristow, "Injuries of the Peripheral Nerves in two World Wars." Dec. 17, Erasmus Wilson Demonstrations, by Mr. R. W. Raven, "Melanoma and Related Tumours." Dec. 19, Thomas Vicary Lecture, by Dr. E. Ashworth Underwood, "Naval Medicine in the Ages of Elizabeth and John."

Medical Notes in Parliament

Welfare of the Deaf

Mr. KEY replied on Nov. 20 to a discussion on the welfare of the deaf. He said the Government recognized that, important as were hearing aids, the treatment of infectious diseases in childhood and prompt attention to the prevention of deafness were more important. The Ministry of Health was preparing comprehensive measures for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of deafness as part of the National Health Service, and was armed with authoritative recommendations from those committees which the Medical Research Council had set up in 1944 at the request of the Departments concerned in this problem. There was not likely to be difficulty in persuading the Medical Research Council to undertake further research. By Section 16 of the National Health Service Act, the Minister himself had power to conduct or to assist by grants research into any matters relating to the causation, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of illness. Deafness would be included in the provision, and the Department would use these new powers fully to see that such investigation was made. He did not suggest it would be possible to build up the complex organization for the care of the deaf and to have it operating everywhere by the date when the National Health Service Act would come into operation. But deafness clinics, under trained specialists, would be developed as part of the hospital and specialist services as quickly as available resources allowed. Up-to-date and effective means of testing deafness and of fitting the patient with the kind of aid which would benefit him would not be overlooked. An advisory committee on the welfare of the deaf would be set up when the time seemed ripe for it.

Mr. BEVAN stated on Nov. 21 that free issue of deaf aids could not begin before the National Health Service came into operation.

Streptomycin.—Mr. HERBERT MORRISON, on Nov. 18, said that the Medical Research Council had arranged for controlled clinical trials of streptomycin, as soon as supplies were available, to determine its value in tuberculosis and other conditions and the best methods for its use. Funds were being allocated for the cost of this work, including purchase of the necessary quantities of the product.

Dermatitis in Coal-miners.—Mr. DAVID GRIFFITHS asked on Nov. 19 for the numbers of cases certified by the certifying surgeons of coal-miners suffering from dermatitis from January, 1938, yearly up to and including December, 1945. Mr. JAMES GRIFFITHS explained that separate figures for coal-miners were not available, but the number of cases among miners generally, the majority of whom had been coal-miners, were as follows:

1938	..	254	1942	..	884
1939	..	305	1943	..	1,207
1940	..	402	1944	..	1,506
1941	..	573	1945	..	1,867

Staffing of Mental Hospitals.—Mr. BEVAN stated on Nov. 21 that during the past twelve months the accommodation in England and Wales for mental defectives had increased by 177 beds. On Jan. 1, 1946, mental hospitals were overcrowded to the extent of 13,176 patients, or 11.5% of the total accommodation. The number of nursing staff employed in mental hospitals and mental deficiency institutions had increased by 620 during the twelve months ended June 30, 1946, bringing the total to 25,840, just over half of whom were fully trained.