IN MEMORIAM

JOHN BASTOW
1905-1965

By the death of John Bastow on January 1, 1965, the south-west of England has lost one of its foremost orthopaedic surgeons. He was senior orthopaedic surgeon to the Bath Group of Hospitals and to the Bath Clinical Area.

John Bastow was educated in Hobart, Tasmania, and qualified in the University of Melbourne in 1928. After resident appointments he attained the M.D. and in 1931 he came to England. A resident appointment at Oswestry stimulated his interests in orthopaedic surgery and following the attainment of the F.R.C.S. he made orthopaedics his lifetime work. In 1934 he was appointed a member of the staff of the Bath and Wessex Orthopaedic Hospital and shortly afterwards joined the staff of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases. At these three departments his orthopaedic interests were widespread, and in association with Mr Charles Kindersley he helped with the inauguration and development of a complete fracture and accident service for the Bath Clinical Area, later to prove a model for the whole south-west of England.

In the same association he progressively developed the surgical and orthopaedic care of arthritic patients at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases. His sound and sensible assessment of arthritic surgical problems was an education for his juniors and a salvation for many of his patients. His standards of surgery, whether in traumatic, arthritic or children's work, were of the highest and he could not tolerate slipshod or second rate work. His judgement was always shrewd and carefully considered and his criticisms were never destructive. He was a permanent source of strength and assistance to his colleagues and he never in his life delegated a difficult decision. At work he was a born leader, though an approachable one, and the most junior member of his staff would receive a courteous and kindly hearing on any problem, however small.

John Bastow was a great sportsman and he had a large circle of friends amongst the sporting fraternity of the counties of Somerset and Wiltshire. At home he was always the perfect host, generous and entertaining. His home at Bathwick Hill was the Mecca of visiting orthopaedic surgeons and particularly for his Australian visitors. He and Mrs Bastow possessed the great gift of being able to make complete strangers feel entirely at home and relaxed in all circumstances. The parties at his home were events of the year for the Bath medical profession.

A sound and practical surgeon, a true friend to his colleagues and a tower of strength in adversity, his name will be long remembered in the West of England. His loss is a great one to orthopaedic surgery throughout the country. Our greatest sympathy is extended to his widow.

A. E. B.
Ian Lawson Dick died in Edinburgh on February 9, 1965, from the recurrence of a malady beneath whose shadow he had lived undaunted for ten years. His work in the orthopaedic field had its foundation on a broad base of general medicine and surgery, strengthened and widened by a life-long interest in the humanities.

Born in 1906 in a scholastic family, he received his early education at Ayr Academy, and in 1923, having gained the Wood Bursary of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, he commenced the study of medicine at the University of Edinburgh. In 1928 he graduated M.B., Ch.B. with honours, and then spent a valuable period in general practice. After holding appointments of house physician to Professor Matthew and house surgeon to Sir Henry Wade he became an assistant in the Department of Pharmacology under Professor A. J. Clark in order to familiarise himself with experimental methods. He was awarded the Lauder Brunton Prize and Medal in Pharmacology and worked part time for the Medical Research Council.

In 1931 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and in the following year was invited by Sir Henry Wade to be clinical tutor to his wards in the Royal Infirmary. In 1933 Lawson Dick graduated M.D. Edinburgh with commendation for his thesis on the treatment of urinary infections, and in 1940 Ch.M. with a thesis on the transplantation of bone.
In 1936 he was appointed surgical consultant to the County of Zetland, a post which he held till the outbreak of the war.

As Medical Officer to the Number 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron Auxiliary Air Force, Lawson Dick was called for duty in September 1939, and remained in the Royal Air Force Medical Service as a Wing-Commander till October 1945. From 1941 he held a dual appointment as orthopaedic specialist and officer in charge of a surgical division in various Royal Air Force hospitals. He was a member of that notable band of orthopaedists organised by Sir Reginald Watson-Jones (civil consultant in orthopaedics to the R.A.F.) which did so much for so many—especially, in Lawson Dick’s case, for those in Bomber Command. In 1943 he was awarded the Air Efficiency Award.

After the war Lawson Dick became first assistant in the new Orthopaedic and Accident Department of the London Hospital under Sir Reginald Watson-Jones. In 1946 he was appointed orthopaedic consultant to the Bradford Hospitals, where he was intimately concerned with the inception and development of the orthopaedic service. He returned to Edinburgh in 1951 as Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery, and Lecturer in Orthopaedics and Applied Anatomy in the University. Since that time his professional work has been carried out mainly at the Royal Infirmary, Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

As a surgeon Lawson Dick was skilful, painstaking and conscientious, and possessed a profound knowledge of the treatment of trauma, upon which his colleagues were grateful to draw. He took a keen interest in the training of junior surgeons. In him they found a kindly mentor, whose concern for their progress and welfare did not flag when they had left his orbit.

His contribution to surgical literature was considerable. In the early days it dealt with urology, but later with orthopaedic subjects. These contributions exhibit the acute analytical scientific outlook, which was inculcated during his period of research and was patent in his approach to all surgical problems.

To Lawson Dick his patients were neither numbers on a register nor possessors of interesting conditions, but fellow humans to aid in every aspect of their lives. From his earliest student days and for some years after graduation he was intimately connected with the University Settlement, which provided social and other amenities for the underprivileged. But perhaps the part of his duties that gave him most satisfaction was the teaching of undergraduates and postgraduates. For this he had a recognised flair. His delivery was unhurried and his material lucid and memorable, possibly because he always prepared every lecture in the minutest detail. On less formal occasions his impromptu speeches were often brilliant: endowed with a prodigious memory, he could quote from an extensive knowledge of the classics and literature. Poetry was his speciality, and he memorised lengthy passages even in his latter years.

Lawson Dick was an enthusiastic member of the Speculative Society of the University of Edinburgh, and was a debater of note. To his College he gave devoted service for many years on the Council, and as Assistant Editor of the Journal. A Fellow of the British Orthopaedic Association, he had been a member of the Executive Committee. He was a Fellow of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, of the Royal Society of Medicine and of the International Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

Once a keen golfer, latterly he sought his relaxation more in country pursuits. Lawson Dick was a quiet man, a family man and a friendly man. To his widow, daughter and two sons his many friends extend their sympathy as, with them, they mourn the early demise of one "who had done his work, and held his peace and had no fear to die."

R. I. S.

THE JOURNAL OF BONE AND JOINT SURGERY
THOMAS BARRY McMurray
1917–1964

It was with very deep regret that we received the news in Cape Town of the death in Sydney, Australia, on November 24, 1964, of our former colleague and friend Thomas Barry McMurray at the early age of forty-seven years. Although we had for some time realised that he had been severely ill, it still came as a deep shock to hear that he had passed away.

After qualifying M.B., Ch.B. at Liverpool in 1941 he joined a British paratroop division. Here it was that he took a particular interest in traumatic and various limb and spinal injuries sustained by parachutists. He himself took an active part in combat missions, during one of which he sustained a severe fracture-dislocation of the cervical spine in France. Despite this injury he continued with his duties until a few weeks later when he was flown back to Liverpool for treatment by his father, Professor T. P. McMurray. Although one was always aware of the considerable disability caused by this injury, he never mentioned or complained of it. He did, however, always maintain an extremely active interest in military matters of all types.

After his return to England he obtained the F.R.C.S. in Edinburgh in 1946 and the M.Ch.(Orth.) in Liverpool in 1947.

He then came to Cape Town and soon built up a successful practice, being well known for his dynamic approach to orthopaedic surgery. He was never given to procrastination and it was indeed a pleasure to see Barry getting on with a job. His approach was always that of a surgeon completely confident in his own method of attacking a particular problem. It was certainly in his nature to be a particularly good emergency surgeon, being at his best when dealing with a number of casualties in hospital.

In addition to a large private practice he held appointments as Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Groote Schuur, Conradie and Rondebosch Hospitals in Cape Town. During the fourteen years he spent in the Cape he worked actively on the staff of these hospitals, always attracting and getting through a prodigious amount of work. At Conradie Hospital he continued his interest in spinal injuries, being directly responsible for the creation of the nucleus from which has arisen the new Spinal Injuries Unit. His pioneering work in fighting for the facilities required by such a unit will never be forgotten.

Barry McMurray always displayed an active interest in the South African Cripple Care Association, being a member of the Executive Council and of the Rehabilitation Committee for many years. He also played a considerable part in organising and running many of the local Cripple Care Clinics. In the years soon after he arrived in Cape Town there was a backlog of patients with poliomyelitis and congenital deformities requiring reconstructive procedures. Together with the other new orthopaedic surgeons arriving in Cape Town after the war, he played a large part in their rehabilitation.

The organisation and founding of the South African College of Physicians, Surgeons and Gynaecologists was a project very near to his heart. In 1954 at the Inaugural Meeting in Johannesburg a Steering Committee was elected of which he was appointed Secretary.
On the establishment of the College he became its first Honorary Registrar, in which capacity he served the College until 1961. He was always proud of the fact that South Africa had created its own College and that he had been able to play such a large part in its initial institution and organisation.

In 1961 he left Cape Town to take up an appointment as Director of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

I was most fortunate to have known Barry personally as a colleague, partner and sincere friend. To have known and worked with him was indeed a privilege. His energy appeared to have no bounds and his enthusiasm no limits. His life which had been so tragically shortened had been filled with so much service to the community that one only now begins to sense the apparent urgency of his mission.

Barry McMurray had been awarded the M.B.E. for his military accomplishments and he was buried in Sydney with full military honours.

J. A. v. d. M.