Philip Wile's father was a distinguished man, a Privy Councillor; a sedate and prosperous career in the City of London was open to the son. In 1917 after leaving his school, Rugby, at eighteen, he served in the Army and in the Royal Flying Corps for three years; then he joined his father in the City. He either inherited or picked up a sound business sense that never left him and was to prove valuable to others years later. But Wiles decided that medicine was his job: a mature student, with a sure sense of what he wanted to do, he entered the Middlesex Hospital and seven years after qualification, with some coveted prizes, the Fellowship and the London Mastership of Surgery collected on the way, he became a member of its senior staff; a late starter, at the age of thirty-six he had arrived.

Wiles had two passions, one for his work, the other for the underdog. His sympathies were regarded as left-wing, but this was only because, in those days, the right seemed to him to be devoid of social conscience. He tended injured Spanish republican soldiers; he helped to organise the dispatch of medical supplies to the harassed Red Army in China. Yet with all this he was devoted to his work and laboured fruitfully and memorably on awkward topics such as posture and dyschondroplasia. His excellence as a teacher led him to write a splendid textbook on orthopaedics which, between 1949 and 1965, ran through four editions and several reprintings. Yet we remember him best as a delightful companion—falling up rock faces in the Lake District and North Wales—and as a fearless, outspoken and extremely
competent man of affairs. This Journal—the British half of it—started life financially (but not otherwise) marasmic. It was the faith and unremitting labour of Watson-Jones as editor, Macmillan as publisher and Wiles as treasurer that nursed it through the first difficult years. This was when “the City” in him came to the top and he made the faint-hearted feel ashamed.

It was only natural that his fellows chose him to be President of the British Orthopaedic Association and of kindred societies. He did everything so well, and never more so than when the Italian and British orthopaedic surgeons met together in Rome, Bologna and Florence. He addressed us, on appropriate occasions, in Italian. Wiles worked hard during the second world war, rose to the rank of brigadier and made his presence felt in the Middle East and in India. His letters were full of what he should do, and often did, about medicine in the army and out of it.

He never quite settled down afterwards. The routine of clinical work did not give sufficient scope for his organising ability. At one time he seriously thought of turning to administration in the Health Service; he believed in it, he wanted it to be very good. It came as a grief to many, but not as a surprise to those close to him, that he decided to retire at sixty. He and his wife had made long journeys abroad, not as tourists but as if they were in search of something, a fresh start, with work that was neither trivial nor for gain. They found the home they wanted in Jamaica, where he became Chairman of the Scientific Research Council and encouraged the growth of the thriving medical school. He was closer, too, to his many American friends; he was a fellow of their College of Surgeons and an honorary member of both the American Orthopaedic Association and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. It seemed as if he and his wife, Molly, were entering on a West Indian summer; but for Philip it was clouded by illness and the last one ended his life too soon at the age of sixty-seven.

In a world of increasingly smooth and dull conformity Philip Wiles stood out with his tall angular figure and his equally angular character. If he was misunderstood, and sometimes he was, it was only by those who failed to appreciate his tough honesty of heart and the generous spirit that moved him.

HUBERT CHITTY
1882–1966

Hubert Chitty, one of the pioneers in orthopaedic surgery in Bristol, died on December 13, 1966, twenty years after retiring from active surgery. Although he has very rarely been seen at British Orthopaedic Association meetings since his retirement, many older members enjoyed meeting him again at Bristol in 1965 and their appreciation of his work for orthopaedic surgery was shown by the recent conferment of Emeritus Fellowship. Twenty years of retirement were not inactive years; they began with his acceptance of the invitation to become Sheriff of Bristol in 1947, a position he filled with great dignity and in which he demonstrated his keen sense of social and civic responsibility.

Hubert Chitty qualified at University College Hospital in 1904 and gained his Fellowship and M.S.(London) in 1907. He was senior resident officer at the Bristol Royal Infirmary from 1909 until 1911 and later joined the staff as a general surgeon. During the first world war he served in the Royal Navy, and after the war he returned to Bristol, working mainly at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. He was an excellent teacher and enjoyed his contact with the students, who lost few opportunities at the Christmas shows to caricature those very bushy eyebrows. Throughout his professional life he continued to practise general surgery as well as his special interest, orthopaedic surgery. He was a courageous surgeon, with great technical ability; but he was more than this, as was shown by his sympathetic understanding of his patients’ problems. His surgical interests were widely dispersed and he did not find time for much writing, but he was well known for pioneering the use of iodine in milk in the treatment of
actinomycosis, an important line of treatment in a previously completely intractable disease. He was one of the founders of Winford Orthopaedic Hospital, where he was orthopaedic surgeon from its opening in 1932 until his retirement in 1946. He saw it grow from its beginnings as a children’s hospital for orthopaedic and cardiac cripples, through its enlargement by the Ministry of Health for the Emergency Medical Service to become an orthopaedic hospital accepting patients of all ages, civilian and service. Throughout his professional life he showed a lively and active interest in the Bristol Crippled Children’s Society and later of the Bristol Council for the Disabled, of which he was chairman and remained an active supporter until his death. He was very conscious of the leading part the surgeon had to play in the important contribution made by these bodies in the days before the welfare state was conceived. He was very interested in rehabilitation, and his Presidential Address to the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1946 was devoted to this subject.

As a man Hubert Chitty was quiet and rather retiring on most occasions but he was an excellent host, enjoyed leading a party in song, whether at home or in the wards at Christmas, and took a keen personal interest in the many young people he met in his work at a teaching hospital. With the capable and charming help of Mrs Chitty he extended a genuine hospitality to the students and young doctors, from whom he evoked loyalty and affection. He was a man of wide interests and could talk well on almost any subject. Travel had a great attraction for him and he had visited many parts of the world. His four children showed the mark of his international interests: his elder son graduated in Canada and, after working for many years in Oxford, now holds a Chair in Zoology in North America. Mr Chitty enjoyed vigorous pursuits, was a keen tennis player and an energetic gardener, gaining pleasure from both the work and the results of his labours.

In spite of his widespread interests Mr Chitty was somewhat lonely after his wife died in 1964. He was always a most interesting companion and lively conversationalist and up to a few days of his death he retained his very active mental faculties. He is survived by a son and two daughters and will be greatly missed by a large band of friends and admirers.

A. L. E.-B.

THOMAS HENRY BISHOP
1905-1967

We record with profound regret the death on June 10, 1967, of Thomas Henry Bishop, bibliographer of the British Volume of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery for almost twenty years since its beginning. The Journal has always felt proud of the care taken in checking over authors’ references, confirming the accuracy and relating a bibliographic reference to the text of the contribution. The high standard that has been achieved is a tribute to the indefatigable endeavours of this kind and modest man who was unfailing in his duty. He continued his valuable work until only a few weeks ago when resignation was enforced by his illness. He was more than ready to trace the most remote reference to its source and it seemed that his accuracy was never at fault. He was a truly worthy member of a literary family. We deeply regret the loss of this loyal and invaluable member of our Editorial team.

H. J. B.