IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS ARTHUR BERRY
1917–1971

Thomas Arthur Berry, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the South Shields group of hospitals in recent years, died on January 6, 1971, aged fifty-three.

Born on January 23, 1917, in Glasgow, he came from parents who were both in the teaching profession. He was educated at Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School and at Glasgow University, graduating B.Sc. in 1938 and M.B., Ch.B. with commendation in 1941. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, reaching the rank of Major, and his overseas service included an attachment to the King’s African Rifles serving in East Africa and Mauritius. In 1948 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

It was at this phase that he decided to devote himself to orthopaedic surgery. He held appointments in Glasgow, Birmingham and Newcastle upon Tyne up to 1953 when he became Assistant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Durham County Hospital. He remained there until 1960 when he became Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the South Shields group of hospitals. In this post he did tremendous work: starting literally from scratch, he organised a busy orthopaedic service to cover a large mining, industrial and maritime population, often working with very inadequate help. He was devoted to his work, and his patients and colleagues to him.

He was a member of the British Orthopaedic Association and was a very active member of the North-East Orthopaedic Club. His opinion was always respected and his contributions in debate were delivered with a pawky wit and good humour. He was a man of great integrity and generosity. He did not write much, but a paper on Morton’s metatarsalgia due to cavernous angioma appeared in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in 1957.

Apart from his work, his interests were in his adored wife and children and in his home. His hobbies were many, including music, photography, cabinet making, jewellery and radio, in all of which he had high technical skills which of course were reflected in his surgery. He was well travelled and had visited practically every corner of Scotland, especially the north-west Highlands. He was keen on rock climbing and walking, though he gave these up when he married. He enjoyed Scottish country dancing and on special occasions would appear in full Highland dress.

His final illness came at the end of a period of poor health lasting fifteen months, despite which he continued working at high pressure. He will be greatly missed, not only by his beloved family, but by patients, nurses and medical colleagues whose lives have been enriched by having known him. He is survived by his wife, also a doctor, and three children.

J. K. S.

DEREK WILLEY PURSER
1922–1970

Derek Purser died suddenly on November 21, 1970, while out shooting in the Westmorland hills. He was educated at Heywood Grammar School and Manchester University where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1946. He served two years in the British Army in West Germany
and gained the F.R.C.S.(England) in 1951. After experience at the Royal Manchester
Children’s Hospital, he completed his training in the University Department of Orthopaedics
in Manchester. In 1957 he was appointed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the Lancaster and
Kendal region. In the thirteen years that he held
that post, he worked tirelessly for the accident and
orthopaedic services of a busy and dispersed area
and to establish a postgraduate training centre. This
was his particular brain child. He played a large
part in its initial planning and was Chairman of
the Postgraduate Training Committee. He was
elected Official Tutor of the Royal College of
Surgeons and Postgraduate Tutor for Manchester
University. This devotion to training involved a
vast amount of work and benefited not only the
north-west of England, but also trainees from
Greece and central Europe. His enthusiasm knew
no bounds.

Derek was a keen gardener, an excellent host
and a close friend to many, both in orthopaedics
and elsewhere. A serious sudden illness three years
ago, which would have caused others to withdraw
from the scene, merely imposed a temporary restraint on his many-sided life. In this period,
as indeed for many years, his wife Margaret and their three children were his support.

In an era when orthopaedic surgery was becoming more technical, Derek remained a
good doctor. He had that rare gift of maintaining efficiency without losing popularity, and
packed a vast amount of humanity into his short life.

N. J. B.

VERNON STANLEY HUGHES-DAVIES
1905-1970

Mr V. S. Hughes-Davies, consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the Bath Clinical Area,
died on August 5, 1970, after several months of illness, and only two months short of well
earned retirement.

Vernon Stanley Hughes-Davies was born at Llanrhydyst, Cardiganshire, and was educated
at Towyn School. He graduated B.Sc. at the University of Cardiff in 1927 and proceeded to
his medical qualification at the University of Liverpool in 1930. After various house
appointments he took the Diploma of Child Health and eventually in 1938 began his association
with St Martin’s Hospital, Bath. He was a pre-war Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve officer
and for the six years of the second world war spent most of his time at sea, taking part in
the Atlantic and Russian convoys. He completed his meritorious war service as a Surgeon
Commander, V.R.D. and Bar, and returned to Bath as a general and traumatic surgeon.
Soon after, he took the Edinburgh Fellowship and progressively increased his interest in
orthopaedics and trauma. He was the backbone of the service at St Martin’s: no
hospital had a more devoted and conscientious member of staff. Although he covered
numerous smaller hospital commitments, it was really to St Martin’s Hospital that he devoted
his professional life.

He was an extremely modest and unassuming man, but his quiet manner concealed a
first class and practical surgical ability which earned him the high respect and regard of his
colleagues and patients. He had a practical approach to orthopaedic surgery and invented
his own method of fusion of the ankle joint. Although he wrote little, his clinical experience was great and his opinion was greatly valued by all his surgical colleagues. His first concern was for his patients and he unstintingly gave all that he could in his personal care of them. He had many interests and was widely read. After his retirement from the R.N.V.R. in 1960 he continued his association with the Navy and was a Vice-President of the White Ensign Association. His work for orthopaedics in North Somerset, West Wiltshire, and his home base in the city of Bath will always be remembered not only by his colleagues but by a large number of grateful patients throughout the area. The south-west has lost a devoted consultant and respected surgeon, and we extend our sympathy to his wife, Elsie, and married daughter, Anne.

WILLIAM RUPERT WELPLY

1912–1970

It was a great shock to the medical profession in Winnipeg to learn that Dr William Rupert Welply, who had left Winnipeg two months before, in apparent good health, to attend the Combined Orthopaedic Association Meeting in Australia, had died in London on June 24, 1970, at the age of fifty-eight.

Dr Welply was born in London and was educated at Queen Mary College and the London Hospital, graduating in 1935. After postgraduate training at the London Hospital he served during the second world war as a medical officer in the Royal Air Transport Auxiliary. He obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1946. For the next three years he was consultant orthopaedic surgeon for the Kailan Mining Administration, Tong Shan, Hopei, Northern China, where he gained a wide experience of orthopaedic problems. With the advent of communism he left China and joined the Manitoba Clinic in Winnipeg. He was very active medically and administratively in various hospitals in which he worked, becoming Chief of Orthopaedics at the Grace Hospital, Winnipeg, and Acting Chief of the Orthopaedic Department of the Children’s Hospital. He served also as president of the Medical Staff of the Winnipeg General Hospital, the Grace Hospital and the Children’s Hospital of Winnipeg. Dr Welply was a member of many medical societies, including the British and Canadian Orthopaedic Associations, Pan-Pacific Surgical Association and the Manitoba Medico-Legal Society. He played a large part in the Care Medico Organization and visited the Dominican Republic for a month to assist in the Care programme in that country.

He was a keen sailing enthusiast and represented Great Britain in the 1936 Olympic Games. He was one of the early protagonists of sailing in Manitoba and became a member of the Executive Committee of the Manitoba Sailing Association. He was a judge in the Pan-American Games and Lake of the Woods Annual International Regatta.

Dr Welply’s orthopaedic interests were varied. His main interest was in paediatric orthopaedics and he contributed much time and skill to the treatment of the many victims of poliomyelitis resulting from the epidemics in the 1950’s. He thought deeply about the management of scoliosis and wrote several papers on the subject. He was a good clinical teacher. He will be greatly missed by all those who associated with him in medical practice and by those who have been students under him since he came to Winnipeg.

A. E. B.

P. P.