

Obituary

Mary Agnes Pugh, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1900—1972

Miss M. A. Pugh, formerly attached to Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Institute of Ophthalmology and in private practice, died on January 21, 1972, in her 72nd year.

Born in Cardiff in 1900, Mary Pugh was educated at Cardiff High School and entered Cardiff Medical School in 1918. Her clinical training was at Charing Cross Hospital, London, where she qualified in 1926. She was House Surgeon at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital and later at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital and was appointed to the newly formed Squint Department at Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, in 1928, shortly afterwards being made Medical Officer in Charge. She held this post until 1948 when she became a part-time research worker at the Institute of Ophthalmology, which she continued until she retired. Throughout she conducted a successful private practice.

Miss Pugh's work at Moorfields led her to devise the Pugh Orthoptoscope. This was the most advanced instrument of its time for the investigation and treatment of squint and heterophoria incorporating most of the elements of our modern instruments. It enabled every known aspect of a squint or heterophoria to be observed, measured, and corrected; its versatility and its many novel features proved to be invaluable aids to treatment.

Although she had the help of only one nurse in her Department at Moorfields, her work was notable for the breadth and depth of her medical assessment of all her patients—of their general health and social conditions and of their relation to their families—in addition to meticulous ophthalmic investigation and supervision while under treatment. Investigation of each case by a specialist medical officer with the necessary support is expensive and time-consuming but, especially in psychologically determined squints, we still lag behind her pioneer work. Her experience as Medical Officer in Charge of the Squint Department at Moorfields led to her book "Squint Training" published in 1936. After a detailed statement of her clinical approach she gave a clear classification of a thousand cases and laid down the appropriate line of treatment to be followed, together with indications for surgery as she saw them. The results of treatment in each group were discussed and set out statistically. The book cleared the ground for a new systematic approach, laid down sound guidelines, and introduced much new material.

Up to 1948 Mary Pugh's work had been essentially individual and pioneering. The Squint Departments of the post-war Moorfields were envisaged in terms of a different approach and organization and she moved to the Institute of Ophthalmology where she worked on a part-time research basis until she retired. She investigated the nature of visual distortion in amblyopia associated with heterotropia and evolved a theory as to the retinal changes that might account for her findings. The theory has not been confirmed, but the clinical evidence upon which it is based is of importance to our understanding of amblyopia.

Mary Pugh was a bright, friendly person, shy and self-effacing, and intensely interested in the arts, especially painting and literature. She travelled widely and had an international circle of friends both medical and lay; indeed her ability to detach herself completely from her profession was remarkable. She will rank as a pioneer in her field and will be remembered with warm affection by all who knew her and with gratitude by a host of patients.

Correction

In the paper by J. Dallos and W. Howard Hughes (*Brit. J. Ophthalmol.*, 1972, **56**, 114) on the sterilization of hydrophilic contact lenses, on p. 119, line 1, for 72° please read 60°. This is the acceptable temperature for overnight sterilization, see Graph (Fig. 2)