

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL

Postgraduate Course in Industrial Ophthalmology

THIS course, which will be held from July 23 to 27, 1956, is designed for ophthalmologists and industrial medical officers, but is open to all medical practitioners. It will include clinical demonstrations, lectures on industrial diseases and injuries, and visits to local factories and to the Burns Unit of the Birmingham Accident Hospital.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Industrial Ophthalmology Course, Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham, 3.

HONOURS

DR. MAURICE LANGHAM has been awarded the first Norman McAlister Gregg Prize by the Council of the Ophthalmological Society of New South Wales, for a paper entitled "The Physiological Factors relating to Corneal Pathology".

OBITUARY

HERBERT WILLOUGHBY LYLE

WE regret to report the death of Mr. H. Willoughby Lyle at his home at Portishead, Somerset, on March 13, 1956, aged 86 years. He was a kindly, energetic, and immensely versatile personality. He will be remembered as an outstanding Dean of King's College Hospital, as a shrewd and successful ophthalmic surgeon, and as one of the most brilliant teachers of his generation.

His early interests were in anatomy and in physiology with zoology and biology as a sideline. He developed an intensely individual teaching technique which quickly made him famous as a coach. His classes for the Primary Fellowship examination were very widely known and attracted the keenest personalities of his day. Later he examined for 10 years in physiology for the Primary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. His *Manual of Physiology* (written with Dr. David de Souza) was a most popular text-book, helpful to students by reason of its concise arrangement and easy didactic style. As an examiner he was jovial and encouraging, just in his assessments, but getting the best out of a nervous examinee.

He commenced the study of ophthalmology in 1893, attracted by the work of another great teacher, Professor McHardy. He was appointed to the Royal Eye Hospital in 1903, where he became Dean; he started ophthalmic teaching there, and had considerably developed the school until his work was unfortunately interrupted by the 1914-18 war. He was appointed as assistant ophthalmic surgeon to King's College Hospital in 1910 becoming full ophthalmic surgeon in 1917. His appointment as Dean of King's in 1911 soon took up more and more of his time so that he had little chance after the war to resume postgraduate ophthalmic teaching. He did, however, examine for the first part of the D.O.M.S. when this diploma was first started in 1921.

As an ophthalmologist he was careful and precise. He had a real love of refractive work and managed to instil interest in this subject into his students. He was a good operator, particularly successful in his treatment of chronic glaucoma for which he employed a filtration operation of his own which anticipated the principles of iridencleisis. He had a deft touch and his main operative interests lay in intra-ocular work.

King's students were fortunate in his amusing and colourful ophthalmic teaching. He had the rare art of concocting catchwords which would make his pupils remember the salient features of such a disease as glaucoma. It was largely due to his work that so many King's men have become ophthalmologists. These include among others his two sons Keith and Eric, G. T. W. Cashell, T. H. Whittington, and J. M. Bickerton. He developed a large consulting ophthalmic practice of his own.

His main life work was undoubtedly the building up of the King's College Hospital medical school, where he worked for so many years with incredible energy and assiduity. Many generations of King's men will remember his orations at medical school functions; and his work for King's on the hospital management committee and at the London University was outstanding. He had as a student been a keen soccer player and athlete, and he carried his interest in sport into all medical student activities. There never was before or since such an enthusiast for the hospital, and after his retirement he received the unique recognition of being made Dean Emeritus and Emeritus Lecturer in Ophthalmology to the Medical School. In the midst of his crowded and active life he found unlimited time to attend to the affairs of the students. He was particularly kind to anyone in financial or personal difficulties of any sort, as very many King's men can testify.

It would be giving quite a wrong impression of him to think of his academic and professional activities only. He was a great family man, at his happiest when visiting his sons at Cambridge, or playing lawn tennis on Saturdays at Bromley. In the years of his retirement he thoroughly enjoyed his activities in the garden. He will be remembered as a very human kindly person, living his life with gusto, and achieving distinction in most things he touched. L.H.S.

The passing of Mr. H. Willoughby Lyle, Dean Emeritus of King's College Hospital Medical School severs a link between King's College School, King's College, Strand, and King's College Hospital. Lyle was attached to all three institutions. He attended King's College School when it was situated in the Strand before its removal to Wimbledon. After qualifying in medicine he spent a considerable time teaching biology and examined in that subject for the Conjoint Board, but his main interest was in physiology and disease of the eye. For many years he was lecturer under Professor Halliburton at King's College and he drew students from far and wide who wished to take the Primary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons.

His determination to take up ophthalmology as his life's work was greatly enhanced by his extensive physiological background. He was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to King's College Hospital in 1910 and in 1911 became Dean of the Medical School, an appointment which he held until his retirement in 1932. He was a very popular Dean, beloved by the students, and it was due to his efforts that the extension to the Medical School was built before the war. He was an apt teacher and had the faculty of being able to explain difficult problems so that they appeared to be quite simple.

He was keen on athletics and a constant spectator at the "touch line", and was himself an enthusiastic tennis player until his 60th birthday.

There can be no doubt that Lyle was one of the pioneers who helped to build the modern King's College Hospital and its Medical School. C.W.