

OBITUARY

SIR JOHN HERBERT PARSONS

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sir John Herbert Parsons on October 7, 1957. A full appreciation of his contributions to ophthalmology will appear in a subsequent issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*.

ESMOND GARETH RECORDON

The death of Esmond Recordon at the early age of 53 is a tragedy for his family, his friends, and the profession which he served so faithfully and well. Throughout his life, at Berkhamstead School, at Cambridge, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and later in his professional career at Cambridge, a warm friendliness was foremost among his many admirable qualities of heart and mind. His loyalty and genuine interest in his friends, colleagues, and patients was constant. He possessed infinite patience and gentleness in thought and deed. He had a marked appreciation of the good things of life and would never accept the second rate. His indignation and concern for anyone who had unjustifiably suffered a wrong were far more vehement than if he had himself been the victim. Such arose from a ready and deep sympathy with the affairs of those who confided in him. He was ever ready to give effective help and encouragement when such were needed.

After graduating at Cambridge in 1925 he entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital, qualified B.Ch.Cantab. in 1928 and read his M.B. thesis in 1929. At St. Bartholomew's Hospital he became house physician to Sir Walter Langdon Brown and later house surgeon to the Eye Department. There followed the appointment to the resident staff at Moorfields and a period of training in Professor Meller's Eye Clinic in Vienna.

In 1933 Esmond Recordon was appointed honorary ophthalmic surgeon to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, a post hitherto held by a general surgeon. He spent much care and thought in laying the foundations of the new department. In 1936 he read his M.D. thesis. Trained more as a physician than a surgeon, he brought to ophthalmology a wide and philosophical approach. His surgical technique was marked by conservatism and infinite care. His contributions to medical literature were mainly of a clinical and practical order.

Before the war Esmond Recordon served in the R.A.M.C. Territorial Army and went to France in 1939 with the 20th General Hospital, recruited in Cambridge. After the military evacuation from France he returned to the United Kingdom and there followed ill-health, a misfortune which he accepted with characteristic patience and without bitterness.

The serenity of Cambridge with its manifold cultural pursuits gave him contentment in learning more about the arts, music, painting, and drama in which he was deeply interested. He had an intense love for the countryside, for gardening, and for the endeavours of the Trumpington parochial church council which he served as an enthusiastic member.

Esmond Recordon's family life was one of enduring happiness. Our sympathy is for his widow and two sons, of whom he was immensely proud, in their tragic loss.

H. B. STALLARD.