OBITUARY

SIR BENJAMIN WILLIAM RYCROFT, 1902-1967

On March 29, 1967, Sir Benjamin Rycroft died suddenly at his home in Windsor at the relatively early age of 64 years.

Benjamin Rycroft studied medicine at St. Andrews University (1919-24) and after qualifying started general practice in Bradford, Yorkshire. He soon took up ophthalmology, studying in London during the week and returning north to work at the weekends; when he was admitted to the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons in 1931 he moved south to Taplow and London, where he worked as a clinical assistant at St. George's Hospital and later at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Even at this early stage enthusiasm and industry had their rewards, and he became a Hunterian professor and Leverhulm Scholar at the Royal College of Surgeons, a Lang Research Scholar at Moorfields, and Middlemore Prizeman of the British Medical Association. His hospital staff-appointments included the Maidenhead Hospital, King George's Hospital, Ilford, the East Ham Memorial Hospital, and the Royal Eye Hospital in London.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined the R.A.M.C., serving first in Northern Ireland, then in North Africa, and finally in Italy where he acted as ophthalmic adviser to the Army. On the way to North Africa his ship was torpedoed and he had the very unpleasant experience of being rescued with difficulty from the sea.

After the war he resumed his practice in London and was appointed consultant ophthalmic surgeon to Park Prewett E.M.S. Hospital near Basingstoke, the Royal Eye Hospital in London, the Canadian War Memorial Hospital, Taplow, and the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead; at the last hospital his permanent interest was centred, and here he developed a corneo-plastic unit which rapidly increased in scope and importance. Keratoplasty, a subject on which he published his first paper in 1935, was his major interest. In 1955 he edited a series of essays on corneal grafts by world authorities, the first book on this subject to be published in the English language. His most valuable contribution to British ophthalmology was the active part he played in the advocacy of the Corneal Grafting Act of 1952 which put surgeons in Britain in a position to practise keratoplasty on a useful scale for the first time. Arising out of this he foresaw the need for Eye Banks;
the first was established at East Grinstead and this now has successors elsewhere, in London and the provinces. Subsequently he became clinical director of the Pocklington Eye Transplantation Research Unit at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and he gave the Doyne Lecture at Oxford on corneal grafting in 1965. In 1960 he was knighted.

In addition to ophthalmology he had many interests—a Jersey herd whose yield was often above the county’s average, and a rose garden for which he was sometimes given new varieties by growers to try before they were put on the market. He rode to show-standard and hunted, was a keen member of the Royal East Berkshire Agricultural Association, and latterly took up fly fishing with enthusiasm. He was also a musician, having played the organ and sung in the church choir as a boy, and all his life maintained an interest in the piano.

He leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom is an ophthalmic surgeon, and to them we extend our sympathy.

RUPERT JOHN PARRY, 1898–1966

Mr. Rupert Parry died suddenly at his home in Cardiff on November 30, 1966. A native of Talgarth (Breconshire), he was educated at Christ College, Brecon, and at University College, London, and Cardiff.

He qualified in 1921 and took the M.B., B.S. (London) the next year and F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh) in 1932. After various resident hospital posts, he was appointed Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon to Cardiff Royal Infirmary in 1933 and eventually Consultant in Ophthalmology to the United Cardiff Hospitals and the Welsh Regional Hospital Board until his retirement in 1961.

He was a likeable and cheerful colleague with a host of friends and was a regular attender at meetings of ophthalmological societies. His professional work was a major interest in his life and although he had been in poor health for some 18 months he continued in practice and actually saw patients on the day he died.

His many friends will miss him sadly and will wish to sympathize with his widow.

NOTES

INTERNATIONAL STRABISMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Founded in August, 1966

During the International Strabismus Symposium held in August, 1966, in Gruenberg and Giessen, Germany, an International Strabimological Association (I.S.A.) was founded. The objects of this organization are:

- To agree to a common strabimological terminology and standardization
- To disseminate knowledge about strabismus
- To foster research in strabismus
- To educate ophthalmologists in the subject of strabismus and its treatment
- To report upon the long-term results of treatment of strabismus
- To encourage and support certain countries who wish to set up organizations for the study and treatment of strabismus.

The organization will hold one meeting every four years immediately before the International Congress of Ophthalmology. The proceedings of this meeting will be published in the ACTA of the Congress. A newsletter to be published three times each year and sent out to all members will contain abstracts of papers on recent work and other items related to the subject of strabismus.

An Initial Council has been elected and the Executive Committee of the I.S.A. consists of the following members: T. Keith Lyle (England), President; C. Thomas (France), Vice-President; G. K. von Noorden (U.S.A.), Secretary-Treasurer; A. Arruga (Spain), Editor.

Eligibility for membership will be as for membership of the International Congresses of Ophthalmology.

Ophthalmologists interested in this subject are invited to join the I.S.A. by sending the annual membership dues of U.S. $5.00 to G. K. von Noorden, M.D., Secretary, The Wilmer Institute, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, U.S.A.