OBITUARY

SIDNEY H. BROWNING, 1884–1968

Ophthalmology has lost a faithful servant and many ophthalmologists a dear friend in the death of Sidney Browning on January 10, 1968, at the age of 84. He qualified from Guy’s Hospital, and after fulfilling resident posts, including that of house surgeon to Arbuthnot Lane, came under the aegis of Professor Eyre, one of the leading bacteriologists at a time when that science was in a period of active development and growth. A growing point was the bacteriology of the eye, in which Professor Eyre was particularly interested and in which he was a pioneer. Doubtless this influenced Sidney Browning, who made it his specialty. In 1910 he was appointed bacteriologist to Moorfields Eye Hospital and held the post for 33 years, retiring in 1943, when he was appointed honorary consulting bacteriologist. He was indeed part of the Hospital over all that period; the surgeons and generations of residents appreciated his ready help and his good humour. Countless ophthalmologists in training received their special knowledge from his systematic lectures, which were much valued for their incisiveness and from his carefully prepared specimens. He was one of the very few surviving Foundation Members of the Oxford Congress, of which he had been Deputy Master; in late years his two favourite jaunts had been Henley Regatta and the Congress, which he last attended in 1963. He was a qualified engineer, and on leaving Hospital was appointed Managing Director of a well-known engineering firm—surely a rare achievement for a medical man. After some years he retired completely and went to live alone in a cottage at Kingston Deverill near Warminster, when he was supremely happy; he once told me he often lay in bed in a state of frustration, vainly trying to find something to worry about. He tended his garden and drove his own car nearly to the end; he was an avid reader, a student of ecclesiastical architecture, and an expert in postage stamps, possessing a large and valuable collection, mainly of French Colonials. He was always ready and anxious to share his expert engineering knowledge, and continued to exercise that skill which had enabled him to produce exquisite models. Strangely uninterested in the theatre or the cinema, he was a keen and informed amateur of music. Sidney—as most of us knew him—lived life to the full, enjoyed company, and was a most generous host and a charming guest. It was remarkable how he endeared himself to everyone he met; all praised and valued his friendship, his humour, and his warmth. He surprised new acquaintances on occasions; he was a highly competitive conversationalist, and a hyperbolist, an excessivist. But one soon came to learn that all those of whom he approved were angels from heaven, just as one learnt that a torrent of scathing and slanderous vilification indicated that his victim had done or said something of which he mildly and probably temporarily disapproved—and Sidney was by no means unaware of the effect of his description, and led the laughter which followed. His married daughter lives in the West Country on a farm which he liked to visit; to her and to his grand-daughter we extend our sympathy. In his passing we are deprived of a gay, colourful, endearing personality whose friendship we keenly enjoyed, and whom we shall not forget. F.W.L.

MONTAGUE LEONARD HINE, 1883–1967

Montague Leonard Hine, who died on December 2, 1967, at the age of 84, was born at Leytonstone and studied medicine at the Middlesex Hospital where he had a brilliant academic career, qualifying in 1901. He took his M.D. in 1907 and became F.R.C.S. in 1908. After a professional journey to Singapore and the Cocos Islands he occupied junior posts at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital (now the High Holborn Branch of Moorfields) and in 1915 was appointed a consulting surgeon and became Dean of the Medical School (1920–1946). In 1934 he was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital. He served during both world wars, in the first as ophthalmic specialist in the army and in the second in the Emergency Medical Service. He was a past president of the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and Secretary of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom from 1927–1930, and a Member of Council 1926–1927 and 1930–1933.