

Basil Arthur Ward, 1916–1968

Mr. B. A. Ward, consulting ophthalmic surgeon to University College Hospital, West Indies, and Associate Lecturer in Ophthalmology, University of West Indies, Jamaica, died on December 1968 at the age of 52. He was born in Chingford, Essex, the only son of Arthur H. Ward, and was educated at Cranleigh School, Guildford, and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School. He graduated M.B., B.S. in 1942, obtaining an honours degree with distinction in surgery, and became casualty officer and house surgeon at St Thomas's Hospital. In 1943 he joined the R.A.M.C., attaining the rank of Captain, and served with the 5th Infantry Division, 1st Special Boat Service, and the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade—without any training he parachuted into Northern Greece behind the German lines. On returning to civilian life he specialized in ophthalmology, becoming F.R.C.S. in 1948 and becoming house surgeon and senior resident officer at Moorfields Eye Hospital and senior registrar and chief assistant to the eye department at St Thomas's Hospital. From 1956 to 1954 he was Wernher Research Scholar in the department of pathology at the Institute of Ophthalmology, London, where he collaborated in the pioneer research which first demonstrated the role of oxygen in the pathogenesis of retrolental fibroplasia. This was the subject of his M.S. thesis. He subsequently became consulting ophthalmic surgeon in Fiji (Colonial Medical Service), in Perth Western Australia, and finally in Jamaica.

On superficial acquaintance Basil Ward appeared shy and rather diffident; this wholly belied his strength of character and admirable qualities, as shown by his adventurous war service, his determined and painstaking research work, and his courage in the last years of recurrent illness and serious operations. His death was tragically untimely, but he had enjoyed life to the full in many parts of the world, and he leaves us with the memory of a kind, unassuming, and always gentle man. To his widow we extend our deep sympathy.

Corrigendum

In the article entitled "Aniridia and Wilms's Tumour (Nephroblastoma)" by T. F. Mackintosh, T. G. Girdwood, D. J. Parker, and I. M. Strachan (*Brit. J. Ophthalmol.*, 1968, **52**, 846),

on page 846, line 14

for "The ocular tension was 4.5 mm. Hg (Schiötz) with the 5.5 gm. weight in each eye",

please read:

"The ocular tension was a Schiötz reading of 4.5 with the 5.5 g. weight (19 mm. Hg) in each eye".