Obituary

Hans Reiter, 1881–1969

Our readers will regret to learn of the death on November 25, 1969, of Hans Reiter, one of the greatest bacteriologists and hygienists of our time. Born in Leipzig, he studied widely, spending 2 years in St. Mary’s Hospital in London under Sir Almroth Wright. He was professor of hygiene at Rostock and then went to Berlin where he worked under Wassermann at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Experimental Therapy. A dignified and courteous figure, he will be remembered for the isolation of the organism causing Weil’s disease, for the elaboration of the Reiter complement-fixation test for syphilis, and particularly for the assessment of the syndrome of Reiter’s disease, with its triad of urethritis, arthritis, and conjunctivitis.

John Stanley Arkle (1890–1969)

John Stanley Arkle died suddenly on November 19, 1969, in his eightieth year. He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on July 28, 1890, and after a short spell of studying to become an actuary decided to make his career in Medicine. At Durham University Medical School in Newcastle upon Tyne he was a brilliant undergraduate; he won many prizes, was awarded a gold medal, and graduated M.B., B.S. with honours in 1913. He served with the R.A.M.C. throughout the first world war and was awarded the O.B.E. in 1919 for his valuable services. After the war he studied at Moorfields Eye Hospital and later at Edinburgh where he took the F.R.C.S. in ophthalmology in 1920. In 1949 he was elected to the F.R.C.S. England ad eundem.

He was appointed honorary assistant ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1920 and in 1928 became full surgeon and head of the department and also lecturer in ophthalmology at Durham University. For some years he was also honorary ophthalmic surgeon to Durham County Hospital and the Fleming Memorial Hospital for Sick Children. A regular attender at ophthalmological meetings and congresses, he was President of the North of England Ophthalmological Society in 1949 and of the Section of Ophthalmology at the British Medical Association annual meeting in 1957.

Stanley Arkle will long be remembered by all who knew him—fellow consultants, students, general practitioners, and patients—for his kindliness, forthright honesty, and helpful advice. He was an extremely modest man and went out of his way to help others in an unobtrusive manner.

He retired from the posts of Departmental head and Lecturer in 1950, five years before he was due to do so because he felt this would help his juniors who had been absent during the war years. Nevertheless, such was his greatness that he continued to serve the hospital as Associate Surgeon until his final retirement in 1955.

His wife died in 1955, but he is survived by his son and daughter both of whom are doctors.