Obituary

Andrew McKie Reid M.C., T.D., 1894—73

Andrew McKie Reid died suddenly on February 15, 1973, at the age of 79. In his passing, a remarkable and distinguished character was lost by Liverpool and by Ophthalmology.

He started his medical career at Liverpool University in 1911, and in those early days was introduced to the fascination of ophthalmology by T. H. Bickerton. The first world war interrupted his studies and he was soon involved in the horrors of the battles of the Somme, Messines Ridge, and Passchendaele, gaining the immediate award of the Military Cross in the field. After a short spell in Italy, he returned to France and was badly wounded in the second battle of the Somme in March, 1918. On his return to England, he spent one year in hospital recovering from his injuries.

He resumed his medical studies in 1919 and, before qualifying in March 1921, had become President of the Medical Students’ Society and President of the Guild of Undergraduates. He obtained the Diploma in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery and the Diploma of Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1925. After some post-graduate work in London (at Moorfields and The London Hospital), Paris, and Vienna, he returned to Liverpool where he was appointed to the staff of St. Paul’s Eye Hospital. His association with this hospital as Consultant Surgeon and then, after his retirement, Honorary Consultant Surgeon was to last until his death.

In 1938 he formed a Territorial General Hospital which in 1939 was mobilized as the 22nd General Hospital R.A.M.C. In April, 1940, he established this 1,200–bedded hospital on the Lofoten Islands to serve the Norwegian campaigns. Later, he served in West Africa and India, and returned to the United Kingdom in 1945, only to be met by the sadness of the death of his first wife 3 weeks later.

He resumed his hospital and private practice and was appointed lecturer in charge of the Department of Ophthalmology in Liverpool University, and Lecturer in the School of Tropical Medicine.

His energies and activities seemed boundless, for he became in time President of the Liverpool Medical Institution, Member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, President of the Section of Ophthalmology of the British Medical Association, President of the North of England Ophthalmological Society, Vice-President of the Section of Ophthalmology of the Royal Society of Medicine, Vice-President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and Treasurer of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists. He was a regular contributor to The Practitioner, and wrote a section for Rob and Smith’s “Surgery” and for Manson-Bahr’s “Tropical Medicine”.

He was for some years a Councillor for the City of Liverpool, Chairman of the Health Committee, and Chairman of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society. He was also a member of the Council of the Order of St. John and a prominent Freemason.

Andrew McKie Reid was a truly remarkable person. A connoisseur of good food and wine and a splendid host, a collector of beautiful things and the knowledge that should go with them, a lover of music and endowed with a natural ebullience and gay sense of humour—all these made him, to
Philip Jameson Evans, 1907–1973

Philip, son of a Birmingham ophthalmologist, was born in 1907 and died suddenly on Sunday, March 25, 1973, at his lovely new home, Shepherd's Cottage, in Bromsgrove, which he had planned for the enjoyment of his retirement from hospital practice last September.

"P.J.E.,” as he was affectionately called by his colleagues, was educated at Charterhouse, Cambridge, and Barts, London, graduating in 1931. After resident appointments at the General Hospital and the Midland Eye Hospital, Birmingham, and obtaining the F.R.C.S. at the very early age of 26, he was appointed to the consultant staff of the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, an institution he served faithfully for nearly 40 years. Shortly afterwards he married Sylvia Keep and had a very happy married life.

In due course he was appointed as ophthalmologist to the United Birmingham and Children’s Hospital and Lecturer to the University. In 1939 he won the Middlemore Prize and later delivered the Middlemore Lecture in Birmingham and the Montgomery Lecture in Dublin to the Irish Ophthalmological Society, of which he was proud to be a member.

He had a busy private practice and gave a great deal of time to national ophthalmic affairs. In 1938 he was elected to the Council of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, following in his father's footsteps, and soon developed a great interest in the objects of this growing Society. In 1947 he accepted the post of Editorial Secretary, a duty which he conscientiously continued for 20 years. He was honoured by being elected Master of the Congress for 1963–1964 and presided with dignity, charm, and friendliness. No work for this Congress was too much or even too little for him to do and he also made valuable contributions to the programmes. After vacating the Mastership he presented a silver rose bowl to the Congress and personally arranged for this to be filled with roses and placed at the top table, opposite the Master’s Lady, at the Annual Dinner in Balliol College.

He was one of the Midlands representatives elected to the Council of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists on its inception and remained a member until his death, chairing several sub-committees. He was also honoured by being elected as President of the Section of Ophthalmology of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1970 and 1971, and was a generous host to many of the contributors there after the meetings. He also served for 5 years as examiner in ophthalmology for the final F.R.C.S. Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons.

One of his main interests was the progress of ophthalmology in the Midlands and he had planned for years the replacement of the old Victorian Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital. It is sad that he will not see the new Hospital to be built in the next few years on the University Hospital site or take part this autumn in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of his old hospital. He was also instrumental in originating and in raising funds for the Birmingham Eye Foundation to advance the scientific aspect of ophthalmology in Birmingham.