

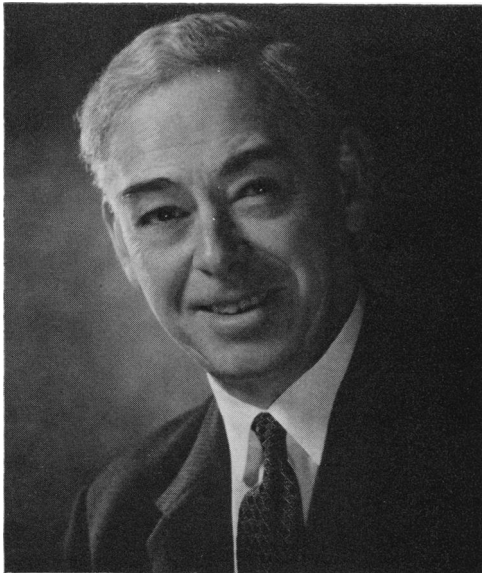
quote one of his oldest friends (O.M.D.), "a jolly good companion". A truly loyal colleague, he was a friend and wonderful encouragement to many who started their ophthalmic careers in Liverpool, never deviating from his insistence that only the highest professional qualifications should be considered adequate for consultant status in the specialty.

He is survived by his second wife and a son and daughter to whom we extend our sympathy.

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.

These are the bare facts of his career, but what of the man himself? He was a very warm hearted and sincere person of a most friendly nature whom patients and staff could instinctively trust. He had a great sense of puckish humour with an immense number of stories suitable for the occasion. Such a man, whose company one could always enjoy, gathered many friends at home and abroad. One American colleague described him as a great ambassador for British ophthalmology. Still maintaining some old-fashioned methods, he had a great deal of knowledge and commonsense, which he passed on in full measure to the many trainee surgeons who passed through his hands.

A gentleman in the truest sense, he will be sorely missed by his many friends and will leave a gap in British ophthalmology which will be hard to fill.

To his widow, Sylvia, his three daughters and grand-daughter, and to his doctor brother, Charles, we extend our sincerest sympathy in the loss of such a fine man.

Derrick Tilton Vail, 1898–1973

One of the outstanding ophthalmologists of our generation, Derrick Vail, died quietly in his sleep in London during the night of April 18 to 19, 1973. His loss will be deplored in every country in the world, not least Britain, for none had a larger circle of admiring and devoted friends.

The middle of five children of an American ophthalmologist of the same name who was professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Cincinnati Medical College, Derrick junior had a happy childhood, learning wood-carving and to play the violin at the age of 8—accomplishments which he maintained throughout his life. Entering Yale in 1915, where he won an oar for participating in a famous rowing victory, he graduated in 1919 and entered the Harvard Medical School to graduate in 1923; during this time there occurred the most important event in his life, marrying one of the most delightful women in the world—Elizabeth, universally affectionately known as Bebe. After a residency of 16 months in the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, he went with his father to Sir Henry Holland's hospital in Shikarpur in India where he learned cataract surgery: on one day he performed 98 operations, to his great regret not reaching his century because the light gave out. Returning to Cincinnati in 1925, he worked with his father. Having visited Oxford to study for—and obtain—the D.O., he succeeded his father in the Chair at Cincinnati in 1937. After a long interval on war service he was offered, and accepted, the Chair of Ophthalmology at the Northwestern University in Chicago. Here he was an active and stimulating teacher and rapidly acquired a practice larger than the family practice in Cincinnati. In 1965 he retired and became Emeritus Professor, taking long holidays on his secluded Canadian island, Desbarats, in Lake Huron. Although he maintained many of his activities, his later years were clouded by one serious illness after another.

The ophthalmologists of Great Britain came to know Derrick best during the second world war. In 1942 he was appointed senior ophthalmic consultant to the U.S. Army in the European theatre and immediately came to England and thereafter went to Europe. During his stay in England he participated wholeheartedly in ophthalmic life, touring American and British hospitals, and with



DERRICK VAIL
(Taken in 1948)