Obituary

Maurice Holdsworth Barton, 1889–1973

Maurice Holdsworth Barton, who died on March 28, 1973, was born in Market-Rasen, Lincs., on September 5, 1889, the son of a general practitioner. He was educated at Epsom College and subsequently at University College Hospital, London. On qualification he served in the R.A.M.C. as battalion M.O. with the 2/5 Leicester during the first world war, and was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he went to Edinburgh and obtained the F.R.C.S. Ed. in 1919. He then returned to Leicester Royal Infirmary, where he had been a house officer, and in 1923 was appointed to the consultant staff as an ophthalmologist. Meanwhile he had married Marjorie Pratt, the daughter of a fellow consultant. He continued in this post until 1954, but he continued to practice ophthalmology outside the Hospital until last year. He is survived by two daughters and a son, who is a consultant ophthalmologist in Taunton.

Maurice Barton was always a very active man and liked to do things with his hands. His early love was sailing. In the 1930s he became interested in farming and in 1948 he moved to Woodhouse Eaves near Loughborough, where he raised cattle and sheep. He was the kindest of men, with simple tastes and firm principles. He will be sadly missed by his few remaining colleagues and by the many patients who benefited so much from his skills and kindness.

Theodore Chalmers, 1884–1973

With the death of Dr. Theodore Chalmers in the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on February 1, 1973, the Northern Region of Scotland lost one of its most experienced and esteemed medical practitioners.

Born in Inverness on June 17, 1884, he graduated M.B.Ch.B. at Aberdeen University in 1906. After experience in Scotland, he was ordained as a medical missionary and went to India where he served for many years at Udaipur and Jodhpur. On the outbreak of the first world war he returned to join the R.A.M.C., and served in France as a Surgical Specialist. He became an F.R.C.S. Ed. in 1919 and returned to India, where he gave further devoted service for which he was awarded the Kaisar i Hind Medal in 1924. In 1928 he came home to Inverness to enter general practice and also to become Ophthalmic Surgeon and General Surgeon to the Royal Northern Infirmary. With the advent of the National Health Service he gave up general surgery and general practice in favour of ophthalmology and played a large part in the organisation of the Ophthalmic Services in the Region, including those in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. After his retirement in 1954, he continued to give valued service to the Region by undertaking locum work in ophthalmology and general surgery until his 80th birthday.

For the remaining eight years of his life, his interests were his home and garden, music and, as always his church. His wife predeceased him in 1970 but he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

John David Joseph Freeman, 1905—1972

Mr. J. D. J. Freeman, formerly consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Gloucester Royal Hospital, who was born on October 8, 1905, died on December 13, 1972.

He was the son of a doctor and qualified from St. Thomas’s Hospital. After appointments on the house at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital and St. Thomas’s he obtained the D.O.M.S., and in 1933 was appointed honorary assistant ophthalmic surgeon to Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary and Eye Institution. He served throughout the second world war as a surgeon lieutenant-commander R.N.V.R. and returned from the Eastern Fleet at Colombo to take up the post of consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Gloucester. He was a member of the N.O.T.B. and represented Gloucestershire at the Annual Meetings of the B.M.A. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.