

Obituary

E. M. CORNER, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.

Mr. E. M. Corner, consulting surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital and to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, died on May 2 at his home in Beaconsfield, at the age of 76. He was the fifth son of the late Dr. Francis Mead Corner, a general practitioner in Poplar. Two of his elder brothers were Dr. Frank Corner, who died in 1939, and Dr. Harry Corner, who died in 1945; the late Dr. Cursham Corner was a first cousin.

Edred Moss Corner was educated at Epsom College, where he was head prefect, captain of the XV, and a member of the XI. He was intensely loyal to his old school, being the first subscriber to the memorial fund started after the end of the first world war, and the originator of, and again the first subscriber to, the war memorial and centenary fund now being organized there. He won a scholarship at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and took a first-class in the natural sciences tripos of 1894. He came to London for his clinical studies at St. Thomas's Hospital, where once again he carried off the highest honours. In 1898 he graduated M.B., B.Ch., and a year later he took the F.R.C.S., going on to the M.Ch. in 1906. After the usual resident appointments at his own hospital and at Leeds, Corner was appointed assistant surgeon to St. Thomas's in 1900, only two years after qualifying. Later he was on the honorary staff at Great Ormond Street, as well as at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and he became consulting surgeon to Epsom College. At the Royal College of Surgeons he was Erasmus Wilson Lecturer in 1905, and Arris and Gale lecturer and Harveian lecturer in 1919, which testifies to his high repute among his colleagues. In 1903 he married Miss Henrietta Henderson, of Dundee.

Corner was an exceedingly tall man of robust frame and commanding presence. His progress as a London consultant was steady, and he was already reaching the peak of eminence to which his notable abilities as a surgeon and a teacher entitled him, when in 1921 he was struck down by a disabling illness. This cut short his career just as he was reaping the due rewards of hard work and genuine craftsmanship in his profession. He had to resign all his appointments and give up practice. For a time he was able to do some professional work as superintendent of a convalescent home at Great Missenden, but presently his sight failed and he retired to a house at Beaconsfield, at which his old friends were always welcome. This tragic blow he bore with admirable fortitude, sustained by the devoted care of his wife. He had been totally blind and very lame for many years preceding his death.

In the 1914-18 war Corner served as a major in the R.A.M.C. His surgical experience made him a most valuable member of the staff at Roehampton and in the amputation clinic set up at St. Thomas's Hospital. He was especially interested, also, in children's diseases, and his work at Great Ormond Street was very near to his heart. He wrote several textbooks, which are now of course outdated. Corner came of Yorkshire stock, originally from Lythe, near Whitby. He was related to many families in the latter town and in the neighbouring villages—some of his lines of descent are traceable there to the reign of Henry VII and even earlier. He was a member of the British Medical Association for many years, serving as

secretary of the Section of Diseases of Children at the Annual Meeting in 1907, and vice-president of the same section, including orthopaedics, at that of 1912. He was honorary secretary of the Old Epsomian Club from 1907 to 1920, and later its president.

To Mrs. Corner and her three children, one of whom is lecturer in botany at Cambridge University, the sympathy of a large circle of friends at St. Thomas's and in the profession generally will be extended.—H. R.

FRANCIS R. PACKARD, M.D.

Dr. Francis R. Packard, the well-known medical historian and a distinguished otolaryngologist, died on April 18 at the Pennsylvania Hospital, at the age of 80.

Dr. Packard had been chief of the otolaryngology service at the Pennsylvania Hospital from 1920 until his retirement in 1931. The son of Dr. John Hooker Packard, he was born in Philadelphia on March 23, 1870, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1889 and from the medical school three years later. During the Spanish-American War Dr. Packard served as first assistant surgeon in the Second Pennsylvania Volunteers. As a major in the 1914-18 war he was appointed consultant for the district of Paris in 1918. Dr. Packard was honorary keeper of the archives of Pennsylvania Hospital, with which he was associated for half a century, and he wrote a history of the hospital from 1751 until 1918. He owned one of the largest medical libraries in the United States and was the author of many medical works, including *History of Medicine in the United States*, *Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat*, *The School of Salerno*, and *Life and Times of Ambroise Paré*. He was responsible for a fine reprint of Macmichael's *Gold-Headed Cane*. His greatest contribution to medical history was perhaps his editorship of the *Annals of Medical History*, from its start in 1917 until 1942, when it ceased publication.

Dr. Packard served as president of the American Laryngological Society in 1930, the American Otological Society in 1936, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia from 1931 to 1935. In 1942 he received the Newcomb award, one of the highest honours among nose and throat specialists in America, for scientific attainment in rhinology and laryngology. He was an honorary member of the Academy of Stomatology of Philadelphia, and a member of the Philosophical Society, the Philadelphia Shakespeare Society, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He is survived by four daughters, three of whom are married.

Dr. ALAN WILLIAM HOLTHUSEN died on April 20 after a short illness. Born in 1885, he was educated at Bancrofts School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1908, graduating M.B., B.S. a year later. Starting in general practice at Forest Gate in 1908, he remained there until the 1914-18 war, when he enlisted in the R.A.M.C. He served in France with the 13th Battalion of the Essex Regiment and also in Mesopotamia. In 1919 he settled in Westcliff-on-Sea and continued in practice there until his death, apart from a break during the recent war when he was surgeon and afterwards medical superintendent at the London Fever Hospital, a tour of duty that undermined his health. For many years Dr. Holthusen was honorary surgeon to Southend Victoria Hospital, and in 1932 he was one of the three general practitioners appointed assistant surgeons to the new Southend General Hospital. In a varied and active life one of his principal interests was in serving as divisional surgeon to the St. John Ambulance Brigade and to the fire brigade. A member of the Southend Insurance Committee from 1922, he represented the district for several years at the Panel Conference.

In 1948, on joining the Southend Executive Council, he was elected chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and of the Pharmaceutical Committee; he was also a member of the Medical Committee. In the B.M.A. Dr. Holthusen was elected president of the Essex Branch in 1934-5 and chairman of the local division in the following year. An active sportsman in his younger days, he played football for Clapton, and in later years he became a bowls enthusiast. His greatest interest, however, was in cricket. When his playing days were over he became president of the Westcliff Cricket Club and chairman of the committee which organized the local county cricket weeks. "Susan," as he was affectionately known to his colleagues, will be remembered best by the Southend Doctors' Cricket Club, which is believed to be unique and which he founded nearly 30 years ago. He ran it so enthusiastically that with his continued encouragement it has flourished up to the present year, when it has a complete fixture list extending from the beginning to the end of the season. Many members of the staff of the B.M.A. will recall the occasion in 1922 when the Southend doctors, including Dr. Holthusen, met a team from Headquarters on the cricket field at Southend-on-Sea. His unexpected death in the midst of a life so full of zest was a shock to his colleagues and friends, who extend their sympathy to his widow and three daughters.—M. L. M.

Dr. JAMES ANDERSON GOODFELLOW, of Chesterfield, died at his home there on May 1, at the age of 85. He was born in Selkirk and graduated M.B., C.M. at the University of Glasgow in 1887. Soon afterwards he settled in Chesterfield, where he soon built up a large general practice in and around the Brampton area. Over many years he kept completely abreast of the changes in treatment and practice, and his activity became only a little less after his retirement in 1922. From then onwards he took up in particular the study of iodine and iodine deficiency, and he had always held that this country should insist on the provision of iodized salt. His recommendation on this point, which has recently been accepted by the Government, following the reports of the Medical Research Council, was made in the first place as long ago as 1935. Dr. Goodfellow was also interested in the pasteurization of milk and in many other aspects of social medicine.

K. B. MacG. writes: Dr. J. A. Goodfellow was a great physician, a man whose reputation for endless endeavour to find the truth will long remain in scientific circles, and a doctor who found no item too small to investigate or too troublesome to examine closely. Through many years in Chesterfield he introduced into the practice of medicine many new methods, and on retirement kept in touch with the profession. He was a member of the British Medical Association for a long time, and until very recent years a good attender at any meetings of interest. He was able to discuss matters of interest with any doctor with whom he came in contact, or with any veterinary surgeon, or even a farmer or gardener. In photography and motor-cars and travel he had had great experience. In legal and business affairs he was very skilful. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and his very many old patients in Chesterfield and the surrounding countryside.

Dr. FREDERICK WILLIAM POOLE died at Bristol at the age of 60 on March 25 after a short illness. After graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1917 at Edinburgh University he joined the Royal Navy and served till the end of the war. On demobilization he went into general practice in Norwich at Magdalen Road, and there he was assisted by his wife, Dr. Mary Poole. She died before him, and was one of the first women doctors to practise medicine in Norwich. In 1930, on being appointed a regional medical officer of the Ministry of Health, he moved to London. Later he went to Exeter and in 1939 was transferred to Bristol. Dr. Poole, or Freddie as he was known to his colleagues and friends, was a natural musician and an accomplished violinist. In the realms of sport he spent much of his leisure time on the golf course and was a difficult man to beat. Socially he was much in demand, his humour and sense of the ridiculous always keeping his friends in good spirits. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Jay Lennard, who came home from West Africa to be with him during his illness.

Medico-Legal

TUBERCULOSIS AND INDUSTRIAL INJURY BENEFIT

Just over a year ago the Court of Appeal granted compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Acts to a nurse who had contracted tuberculosis while nursing tuberculous patients.¹ This was a further extension of the tendency of the courts to widen the concept of "accident" to include a number of mishaps resulting from cumulative processes. Hernia and Raynaud's disease following the use of pneumatic tools have been called "accidents." Anthrax has come under the same heading, the "accident" here being the entry of the bacillus. In the case of *Pyrah v. Doncaster Corporation* Lords Justices Cohen and Denning accepted the view of the county court judge, who held that in the particular circumstances of this case every time the nurse inhaled tubercle bacilli an "accident" was constituted. Exact dates could not be fixed, but all these "accidents" took place in the course of her employment. Lord Justice Bucknill dissented, holding that the nurse's tuberculosis was the result of a gradual process of breathing air containing noxious bacilli.

A correspondent (p. 1143) has drawn attention to the case of a tuberculosis officer who himself contracted tuberculosis. His claim for industrial injury benefit was disallowed recently by the Tribunal set up under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946. The Tribunal, whose findings are summarized below, upheld the chief insurance officer's appeal from an award of industrial injury benefit by the local tribunal and disallowed the claim for benefit.²

Findings of the Tribunal

The claimant was a doctor who had been engaged in attending persons suffering from tuberculosis since August, 1946. In June, 1947, he was appointed assistant tuberculosis officer to a county council. During the course of his employment he was constantly attending tuberculosis patients in the clinic and in their homes. The claimant said in his evidence at the oral hearing of this appeal that he was always liable to inhale bacilli and that he thought that some patients must have coughed up sputum in his presence. In June, 1947, when he was appointed, he was examined and found to be free from tuberculosis. He was in the habit of making routine examinations of himself every four to six months, and up to and including November 17, 1948, these examinations showed him to be free from infection. An examination on December 23, 1948, however, showed a lesion the size of a sixpence and the claimant was subsequently found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and became incapable of work by reason of that illness on January 11, 1949. His claim for industrial injury benefit was disallowed by the insurance officer but allowed by the local appeal tribunal, from whose decision this appeal was brought by the chief insurance officer.

It was admitted that the claimant's contraction of tuberculosis arose out of and in the course of his employment, but it was contended that this contraction did not constitute injury by accident within the meaning of section 7 (1) of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946, but resulted from a process and consequently fell within the decision of the House of Lords in *Roberts v. Dorothea Slate Quarries Co., Ltd.*³ The application of that decision to tuberculosis was discussed in *Pyrah v. Doncaster Corporation*, but the county court judge (upon whose findings of fact the judgment of the Court of Appeal was necessarily based) had not the advantage of the medical opinions which were put before the Tribunal.

Medical Views

Evidence was given on behalf of the claimant by Dr. William Brooks, who expressed the opinion that the claimant was probably infected with tuberculosis by one bacillus or a few

¹British Medical Journal, 1949, 1, 960.

²Decision No. C.I. 83/50; Regd. Paper No. C.I. 217/49: I.O. 1825/II/49; S.782/6A/47/49.

³British Medical Journal, 1948, 2, 664.