

A L Cochrane

## A L COCHRANE CBE, FRCP, FFCM

Professor A L Cochrane, who had been director of the Medical Research Council's epidemiology unit in Cardiff and was the first president of the Faculty of Community Medicine, died on 18 June.

Archibald Leman—Archie—was born on 12 January 1909 in Galashiels. He won scholarships, first to Uppingham and then to King's College, Cambridge, where he obtained a first in both parts of the natural science tripos. He graduated MB, BCh late (in 1938) after studying at University College Hospital, London. At first, like many of his generation, he was bemused by Freud and Marx. Unlike most of them he spent a year as a medical student with the International Brigade during the Spanish civil war and started a training analysis in Vienna. Unconvinced by either experience he returned to medical research and then joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940. He was captured in Crete in 1941 (an event that he usually blamed on Evelyn Waugh, the intelligence officer of D Battalion "Layforce") and spent four years as a prisoner of war in Crete, Greece, and Germany, treating chiefly Soviet, French, and Yugoslav prisoners with tuberculosis. In 1945 he was awarded the MBE for his services as a prisoner of war medical officer.

In 1946 he was given a Rockefeller fellowship, which enabled him to take the DPH at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and spent a year in the United States studying the epidemiology of tuberculosis. On his return he joined the MRC's pneumoconiosis research unit, which had just been set up, as epidemiologist and x ray film reader. There the next 10 years were probably the most productive of his life. With an almost obsessional interest in reproducibility, low rates of refusal, and validation he showed that measurements could be made on populations defined geographically with about the same known inaccuracy as measurements made in laboratories. This helped to make epidemiology a quantitative science but had many other results, notably in pneumoconiosis among coalminers and the epidemiology of bronchitis, anaemia, and rheumatoid arthritis and, later, health service research. In 1957 he survived a professor of surgery's prognosis that he had only three months to live.

He was, possibly unnecessarily, upset by the MRC's decision to hand over research on pneumoconiosis among coalworkers to the National Coal Board with limited participation from the MRC and finally became David Davies professor of chest diseases at the Welsh National School of Medicine and honorary director of the MRC's epidemiology unit. He was not a real success as a professor, either as a teacher or on the senate, though his kindness to students was proverbial, but it gave him a sort of breathing space to switch the direction of his research from epidemiology to health services research. He managed to break through by his evaluation of screening procedures (for glaucoma and anaemia).

He retired as a professor in 1969 to become a full time MRC director, in this second productive period emphasising the importance of discovering, by means of randomised clinical trials, the optimum place of treatment and the optimum length of stay. In 1971 the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust published his book *Effectiveness and Efficiency: random reflections on health services*, which, although undoubtedly lucky in

its timing, had a widespread international effect. At the same time he accepted the job of being the first president of the Faculty of Community Medicine. It was rather out of character: he did it in a crisis out of a sense of duty, but it upset his research plans. He managed a difficult important job with competence and achieved what was needed.

He retired to what looked like an Indian summer, living in a three generation household at Rhoose; he completed 20 year follow up studies of the communities he had studied in the 1950s, travelled widely, and studied the health services of developed countries. It did not work out as he hoped, but he continued his research work after some severe setbacks, completing a 30 year follow up study of men in Rhondda in 1983.

He had many other interests and abilities at different ages. He showed above average competence at rugby football, squash, tennis, and skiing and enjoyed collecting pictures and sculptures and gardening. A small volume of his verse exists, written while he was a prisoner of war. He entertained generously, particularly foreign visitors, and always admitted the value of a private income in helping his career.

Another aspect of his life was the support he gave his unfortunate family, chiefly by diagnosis and seeing that they got the best treatment and care. There were 11 in his immediate family: three had porphyria, three severe diabetes, and one juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

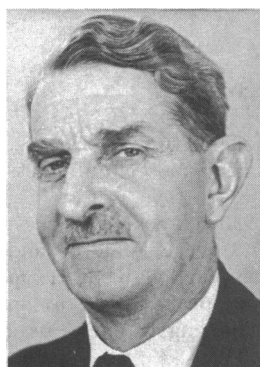
He was a man with severe porphyria who smoked too much and was without the consolation of a wife, a religious belief, or a merit award—but he didn't do so badly.—ALC.

## Lieutenant Colonel H C M WALTON FRCPATH

Lieutenant Colonel H C M Walton, who served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1931 to 1954 and then worked as a consultant pathologist to the Swansea group of hospitals until 1974, died on 25 May aged 79.

Henry Courtenay Mansel Walton was born on 22 January 1909 and was educated at Charterhouse, Cambridge, and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, qualifying MRCS, LRCP in 1932. His father, maternal grandfather, and uncle and, later, his son were all St Mary's men. Posted to India in 1934, he held appointments mainly in hygiene and pathology. After the earthquake in Quetta he went there in charge of the hygiene of the reconstruction. From 1937 he specialised in pathology. In 1939 he was posted to the Royal Army Medical College and in 1940 to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, during the blitz. In 1941 he went to Egypt as pathologist to a general hospital, and he subsequently served in Iraq, Iran, and the Burma front as a pathologist and officer commanding combined British and Indian hospitals. He was repatriated to England in 1945 but subsequently went out to Egypt again as officer commanding a central pathology laboratory in the Suez Canal area.

In 1951 he returned to England. In 1954, considered unfit for tropical service, he obtained a consultant post in Swansea. He was one of the first to notice the rapidity with which *Staphylococcus pyogenes* became resistant to antibiotics. Owing to his contacts, as control of infection officer, with the food handling staffs of the hospitals there were no outbreaks of food poisoning during his tenure. In addition to his medical activities he founded the first branch of the Samaritans



H C M Walton

*Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.*



I R Kerr

in Wales and instituted an annual St Luke's Day service.

In 1976 he and his wife, Geraldine (Ge), moved to Oxford to be nearer to their children and grandchildren. His wife is vice president of the worldwide education section of the Parents' National Educational Union. One of their sons followed the family tradition of medicine and is senior partner in a practice in Windsor.—HCMW.

### CICILY M CLARKE

MB, CHB, MFCM, DCH

Dr Cicily Clarke, who was specialist in community medicine (social services) to Kingston and Richmond Area Health Authority until 1978, died on 4 February after a year's illness. She was 74.

Cicily Margaret Clarke was educated at Aberdeen High School for Girls and graduated in medicine in Aberdeen in 1936. She went on to junior jobs with children at the Royal Hospitals for Sick Children in Aberdeen and Glasgow and at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children in Carshalton, where she met her future husband. She then held appointments as assistant medical officer at Bethnal Green Hospital, assistant district medical officer at Bethnal Green, and assistant medical officer in the health department in Newport, Monmouthshire, until 1941. After bringing up her children she returned to medical practice in 1958 by joining the medical psychology research unit in Cambridge as an assistant in research. After her husband, then an administrative medical officer with East Anglian Regional Health Board, had moved to a post in London she started a new career as senior medical officer (community care) and later specialist in community medicine (social services) in Richmond.

Cicily was a keen gardener and sailor, a good neighbour always ready to respond to requests for support and advice from caring organisations, and a doctor of high professional standards. Among other things she served a term as president of the National Board of Catholic Women. She was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977. She is survived by her husband, Paddy, and their three daughters.

DRD writes: Cicily joined a group of us at Addenbrooke's Hospital who were researching into the family relationships of children suffering from disorders of development in early childhood; she took on much of the care of the parents and children referred to us. She quickly won the trust of the parents and had a knack in getting on with young children. She was a supportive and highly respected colleague whose advice was always well informed, shrewd, kind, and realistic.

### H POZNER

MC, FRCPSYCH, DPM

Brigadier H Pozner, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, died suddenly on 21 February.

Harry Pozner was born in Rugby on 10 October 1914. Educated at the International College, Antibes, France, he qualified MRCS, LRCP at University Hospital, London, in 1939 and was commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the same year. He served in north west Europe in 1940 and in India, Assam, and Burma from 1943 to 1945, being awarded the Military Cross. His postwar appointments included command psychiatrist to eastern and southern commands, adviser in psychiatry to the British Army of the Rhine, and professor of army psychiatry. He com-

manded Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, and Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley Abbey, where he was promoted to the rank of brigadier. He was elected to a foundation fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1968. The numerous articles that he wrote are characterised by an elegant style and an incisive wit. He retired from the army on his birthday in 1974 and remained devoted to the interests of servicemen. After his retirement he worked as a civilian medical practitioner at Bordon, Hampshire. An enduring affection for his first command, Cambridge Military Hospital, ensured frequent visits to its postgraduate medical centre.

Harry was proud of his association with the Dunkirk veterans and was president of the Aldershot branch for many years. He was warm hearted with a large circle of friends. An entertaining raconteur, he delighted with his infectious enthusiasm, gaiety, and wit. He was also a caring and compassionate man always ready with a helping hand. He is survived by his wife, Andree; their son, Michael; and two grandchildren.—JFDM.

### I R KERR

MRCS, LRCP

Dr I R Kerr, a general practitioner in Crewe, Cheshire, died on 27 April after a prolonged and painful illness borne with fortitude.

Ian Roy Kerr was born in 1936 in Stockton on Tees. He was educated at Beaumont College, Windsor, and at Liverpool University, qualifying in medicine in 1961. He entered general practice in 1963 as an assistant in Wallasey before moving to Crewe as a principal in 1966.

Ian lived life to the full and with considerable enthusiasm. He was talented practically, and some of his happiest years were spent renovating a holiday cottage in Aberdaron, Gwynedd, and, during the past 15 years, converting a dilapidated farmhouse into a magnificent family home. His dexterity also manifested in his skill in games, from schoolboy boxing to university and club rugby, and while in Crewe he was a useful cricketer and golfer.

Ian was a man of great personal integrity and modesty combined with kindness and a sharp sense of humour. Although somewhat diffident, he was extremely affable. He is survived by his mother; his wife, Dolores, who is also a general practitioner; three daughters, the eldest of whom is a doctor; and a son.—NGMW.

### J P MICHAEL

OBE, MB, BCH, BAO

Dr J P Michael, who had been a general practitioner surgeon in Helston, Cornwall, died on 16 January after a long illness. He was 87.

James Patterson Michael graduated in medicine in Belfast in 1923 and moved to Helston in 1925, shortly afterwards becoming surgeon to the local War Memorial Hospital, covering general surgery, trauma, and maternity services for the Lizard and district. He worked as a general practitioner in the town from 1925 to 1971 and was awarded the OBE in the 'seventies for his services to Helston and district.

Dr Michael was an international rifle shot and competed for Great Britain on many occasions. He was made a freeman of the borough of Helston in 1969 in recognition of his work with many local associations, notably St John Ambulance. He is survived by his wife, Edna, with whom he celebrated their diamond wedding in 1986, and their two daughters.—RSS.