

# Obituaries

## Kenneth Buxton

Medical missionary who designed, built, and ran a hospital in Burundi

After a surgical house job at St Thomas's, Kenneth Buxton followed up a longstanding commitment to work as a medical missionary and went to start a medical school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. However, the Italian invasion meant that—together with his wife and 6 month old son—he was evacuated to Aden and returned to England, along with the exiled Emperor Haile Selassie.

He went back to Africa to work in Burundi with the Ruanda Mission in 1938. Undaunted by having only a bare, isolated hillside—without running water or electricity—he designed, built, and organised a hospital, training young Africans as nurses and dressers. The hospital, which remains to this day, was built of bricks and tiles made of clay from the valley a mile away using a wood fired kiln. Instruments were sterilised using a pressure cooker (later an autoclave) on a Primus stove. Anaesthetics were given using chloroform and a facemask. A maternity unit and government recognised nurse training school were added.

Most commodities were in short supply and improvisation was frequently needed. Kenneth had to be architect, building instructor, engineer, and car mechanic, as well as deal with a remarkable range of medical and surgical conditions entirely singlehanded. Large brick and concrete water tanks were built to hold rain water for the dry season and hot water came from 40 gallon oil drums over a wood fire—a pipe led through the wall to a



tap in the adjoining room. In the early days the men bringing wood to the mission station were paid in handfuls of salt.

In a country that had no medical services at all, the morbidity and range of diseases were immense. Malaria was endemic and obstetric complications frequent. One of the commonest surgical conditions was goitre—often reaching prodigious size—as a result of iodine deficiency. The many leg ulcer patients had their own clinic. As a result of using native medicines that caused intestinal spasm patients were often brought in with intussusception

Kenneth returned home briefly in 1948 with his family and for good in 1954, when he took up the post of medical superintendent at Mildmay Mission Hospital—one of the few hospitals whose continued independent existence was guaranteed by the NHS Charter. This was the start of a productive 20 years of surgical practice, administration, and service to the local community. Kenneth was involved in many changes, which included the building of a residential wing for nurses and an extension opened by Princess Alexandra in 1965. The Mildmay subsequently became the first hospital to provide a dedicated service for people with AIDS.

He loved gardening and the countryside and took holidays in the hills of Wales, Devon, and Scotland. He was chairman of the council of the Ruanda Mission from 1965 to 1974 and kept up his interest in the country. His integrity, fortitude, and great care for people was shot through by flashes of humour, and all sprang from his deep Christian faith. Predeceased by his wife, Agnes, he leaves four children and nine grandchildren. [PAUL BUXTON]

*Former medical officer Ruanda Mission (Church Missionary Society) Ibuye, Burundi, 1938-54 and medical superintendent Mildmay Mission Hospital, Bethnal Green, 1954-74; b 1909; q Cambridge/St Thomas's 1933; FRCS; d 14 November 2001.*

## Forest William Fyfe

*Lecturer in anatomy Aberdeen University 1939-55 and professor of anatomy Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, 1956-78 (b Aberdeen 1913; q Aberdeen 1937), died from congestive heart failure on 13 April 2001.*

Always one who delighted in the use of words, Forest took great pride in representing Canada on the International Anatomical Nomenclature Committee. A skilled sketch artist, sculptor, photographer, and user of his collection of fine tools, Forest made many props and models for his anatomy lectures, including a 20 times full size human larynx, sculpted from wood and complete



with rubber tissues and muscles. He co-authored *Anatomy of the Human Body*, which has been printed in four languages. The text is heavily illustrated, and Forest took part in preparing the many dissections and in assisting with the artwork. He leaves

four children and a small attic full of medical photographic prints, slides, film loops, and electron and x ray microscope pictures. [HOWARD DICKSON]

## John Bowden Garland

*Former consultant urologist Salford NHS Trust and North Manchester NHS Trust (b Manchester 1934; q Manchester 1959; MD, FRCS), d 13 October 2001.*

He trained in general surgery up to registrar grade but decided on a career in urology. His MD thesis was on chronic prostatitis. John had an extremely placid personality. He was a keen historian, with a



particular interest in the canal system in Manchester and Salford. Predeceased by his wife, Eileen, he leaves three children. [A W HARGREAVES] ■+

### Eric Greenwood Jenner

*Retired general practitioner Brechin, Angus (b Stockport 1921; q Cambridge/London 1944; MBE, MRCP), died on 25 September after a short illness.*

Eric became a medical officer in the Royal Air Force and then moved to a general practice in Gainsborough. He arrived in Brechin in 1953, where his wife, Grizelda, later became a partner. Eric had a strong community spirit, becoming a member of the regional hospital board, a baillie on Brechin Town Council, and dean of the Guildry Incorporation. He worked with the Civic Trust and was instrumental in keeping open the Mechanics Institute. As a young man Eric bred and trained English setters for field trials. He was a talented artist. Predeceased by Grizelda, he leaves four children and five grandchildren. [ROBERT MARTIN] ■+

### Saw Taik Leong

*Former eye surgeon Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada (b Mudon, Burma, 1918; q Punjab 1944; DOMS, DO, FRCS), d 15 October 2001.*

Educated in Rangoon, India, London, and Oxford, he served as a captain in the British-Burma army. Dr Leong found his greatest rewards in serving his community and enjoying his life and home in southern Alberta. He leaves a wife, Phyllis; two children; and a grandson. [ROSEMARIE C LEONG]

### James McArthur



*Consultant surgeon Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, 1962-87 (b 1923; q Glasgow 1951; FRCS Ed 1956 (Glas)), d 1 December 2001.*

After a short spell studying law at Glasgow University, he saw wartime service in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, during which he saw action on the Murmansk convoys and the D-Day landings. Becoming a fellow by invitation in 1970, he was a councillor and then president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow from 1988 to 1990. As college president, he played a key role in setting up the Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examination. He collected Scottish art and antique furniture. He leaves a wife, Joan; two children; and two grandchildren. [JAMES BEATON] ■+

### Paul Bernard Gregory McKee



*Consultant in public health Ayrshire and Arran Health Board (b 1951; q Glasgow 1974), died from aspiration pneumonia secondary to the rare neurological degeneration supranuclear palsy on 13 September 2001.*

Full of fun and larger than life with a superb capacity for laughter, he was class president each year during his student days. As a doctor he annually gave of his skills to the Glasgow Pilgrimage at Lourdes. An accomplished pianist with an excellent singing voice, he enjoyed helping people with disabilities as a member of the Glasgow Credo Choir. He excelled at sport. He leaves a wife, Elizabeth; and two children. [A G ROBERTSON, M M ROBERTSON, A F PETTIGREW] ■+

### Jacob Solomon ("Jack") Norell



*Former general practitioner Holloway, north London (b London 1927; q Guy's 1948), d 12 December 2001.*

He edited *The Practitioner* and was medical adviser to an early television drama series set in a general practice (*The Doctors*). He was particularly involved in the doctor-patient relationship and, with Enid Balint, co-authored the book *Six Minutes for the*

*Patient*. He was a president of the Balint Society, and later became its international ambassador. A dementing illness occupied the last years of his life. He leaves three sons. [MICHAEL NORELL] ■+

### John Graham Pegg

*Former consultant anaesthetist Hospital of St Cross, Rugby, and Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry (b Reigate 1917; q King's College Hospital 1943; FFARCS), died from a cerebral haemorrhage on 19 November 2001.*

Joining the Royal Air Force he went to Normandy with an RAF hospital and burns unit. He gained experience in anaesthetics and treated some of the casualties from Arnhem. In 1951 he was appointed as a singlehanded consultant to the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby with duties at four other hospitals in the area. Retirement gave him more time for his very large garden, archaeology, and, latterly, computing. He leaves a wife, three children, and six grandchildren. [HOWEL JONES] ■+

### David Corbett Tomlins

*Former general practitioner Weybridge, Surrey (b Brondesbury 1910; q Middlesex Hospital 1938), d 28 March 2001.*

After leaving school he joined the family laundry business. However, after five years he left to study medicine. During the second world war he served in the Territorial Army and took part in the D-Day invasion. He was demobbed in October 1945 and went into general practice in Weybridge, where he remained for 30 years. In retirement he played the violin in two quartets and two orchestras. He leaves a wife, Pamela; three children; and nine grandchildren. [CHRISTOPHER TOMLINS, PATRICIA TATE] ■+

### Barbara Stalker Watt (née Thomson)

*Former general practitioner Birmingham (b 1916; q Glasgow 1938; DPH), died at home from acute myeloid leukaemia on 29 September 2001.*

Barbara was introduced to a suburban practice in Birmingham in 1940 as a locum for James Watt, a medical class colleague who was to go on honeymoon. A second locum in the practice covered his wartime service after which she became a partner. In 1950, James Watt lost his wife, and Barbara became a locum mother to the three children. Three years later, she married James Watt and they had two children. Barbara continued in the dual role of mother and general practitioner until she retired in 1976. She enjoyed being a generalist and was determined not to become the gynaecologist in an otherwise male partnership. [D M FLEMING] ■+