

OBITUARY NOTICES

A. B. WALLACE

C.B.E., PH.D., M.D., F.R.C.S.ED.,
F.D.S. R.C.S.ED., F.R.S.E.

Mr. A. B. Wallace, formerly surgeon in charge of the plastic and jaw injuries unit at Bangour Hospital, assistant surgeon at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and reader in plastic surgery at the University of Edinburgh, died suddenly at his home at Ceres, Fife, on 14 December. He was 68.

Christened Alexander Burns Wallace, but always known by the Gaelic form "Alister"



or just "A.B.," he was born on 14 November 1906, went to George Heriot's School, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. from Edinburgh University in 1929. The F.R.C.S.ED. followed in 1932, and in 1936, after a spell in North America, he graduated M.Sc. from McGill

University. His research work at that time was mainly concerned with the lymphatic system, but on his return to Britain he became interested in the tissue culture of skin and spent some time at the Strangeways Laboratory at Cambridge in 1938. With the outbreak of war there came the need for a new hospital for the long-term treatment of the injured and, among other services, plastic surgery. Wallace was encouraged to develop his interests in plastic surgery and burns, and was appointed plastic surgeon to the newly opened E.M.S. Hospital at Bangour in 1940. In the years that followed he developed its plastic and jaw injuries unit to an internationally recognized centre which trained many graduates from home and overseas. He became assistant surgeon to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in 1945 and reader in plastic surgery at Edinburgh University in 1946. In 1947 the British Association of Plastic Surgeons was formed and Wallace undertook the editorship of its journal. When he resigned the editorship 21 years later he and the publishers had raised the journal to the status of an international forum.

In 1941 he had published a small book on the treatment of burns, and this was to be the consuming interest of his life. During the war years he concentrated more and more on the exposure technique, and, though he was by no means the first to use it, it was certainly his writings and lectures that convinced surgeons throughout the world that this was one of the best local treatments for burns. He was a great traveller, and on his journeys abroad he found that the causes of burns, though often different, were equally preventable. From this experience there emerged an intense desire to

create an international organization that could exert pressure on governments everywhere to legislate for the prevention of burns and raise the standard of their care. He organized the Second International Congress on Research in Burns in Edinburgh in 1965 and there the International Society for Burn Injuries was born with himself as secretary-general.

He was a good committee man, and as editor of the *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* had a seat on the council of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons for 21 years. He was the council's representative on the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. From 1965 to 1970 he was a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He received many honours, including the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in 1952, the C.B.E. in 1965, the M.D. *honoris causa* of Uppsala University in 1970, and, perhaps greatest of all, the Order of the Yugoslavian Flag with Gold Star given to him by President Tito in 1973. Only the day before his death he was elected an honorary Fellow in dental surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Wallace was a staunch Presbyterian, with a good measure of the pawky humour which often accompanies that faith. He made many friends in many places. In his leisure time, when not reading, writing, or gardening, he painted. His later years were marred by ill health and he retired from active practice in 1970. He remained, however, intellectually active and read widely, particularly in the historical aspects of burns and plastic surgery, and received the Ph.D. of St. Andrews University in 1973. He is survived by his wife, son, and three daughters.—T.G.

Brigadier H. T. FINDLAY

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., late R.A.M.C. (Ret.)

Brigadier H. T. Findlay died at Worthing on 7 December. He was 81.

Harry Taylor Findlay was born on 22 January 1893 and educated at Dollar Academy and Glasgow University, where



he graduated in medicine in 1915. He immediately joined the Territorial Army and served in the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium as a regimental medical officer until the Armistice in 1918. He was promoted captain in 1916 and appointed to a regular Army commission in 1919. After two short spells in West Africa he returned

home in 1923. He passed the senior officers' course the following year and qualified as a specialist in pathology in 1924. After two years in England he was posted to India as deputy assistant director of pathology, Meerut District, returning in 1932 to take charge of the vaccine department at the Royal Army Medical College. In 1934 he was awarded the Leishman Memorial medal for his part in work which led to the "rejuvenation" of the typhoid component of the Army vaccine. The results were published in the *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps* in 1933-4 and had an important bearing on the discovery of the Vi antigen, which Arthur Felix duly acknowledged. He returned to India in 1937 as D.A.D.P., Lucknow District, remaining there till the outbreak of war, when he came home to take charge of the Emergency Vaccine Laboratory as lieutenant-colonel. He collaborated with Felix in the development of the alcoholized vaccine introduced in 1943 and began research on the production of a scrub typhus vaccine with Dr. Janet Niven.

In 1944 Findlay was promoted colonel and became deputy director of pathology in Middle East Land Forces until he returned to become director of pathology as brigadier in 1946. His tenure was dominated by the fierce controversy over the relative merits of the alcoholized and phenolized vaccines, but the deliberations of the Army Pathology Advisory Committee under his tactful chairmanship were always conducted in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. He was appointed K.H.P. in 1948. The following year he became deputy to the chief superintendent at the Microbiological Research Establishment, Porton. He remained there until 1951, when he retired from the Army and embarked on a new career in the Public Health Laboratory Service, first at Wakefield and then at Winchester, finally retiring in 1958.

Findlay combined a sound practical knowledge of bacteriology and immunology with considerable technical skill and administrative ability. His gentle nature, rich sense of humour, and ready smile made serving close to him a delightful experience. I valued his friendship over many years and it was sad to see the afflictions of age, which he bore so cheerfully, encumbering his latter days. He is survived by his wife.—M.H.P.S.

G.S.W. writes: Findlay was a quiet soul, delightful to have as a colleague and beloved by everyone. Like others who came from the R.A.M.C., he proved to be an excellent director, running his laboratory with that judicious mixture of discipline and freedom necessary to keep his staff working hard and cheerfully. At meetings when discussion between those of opposing views became too heated he had the happy knack of restoring calm by the expression of a few, often humorous words. It was a sad day for the service when the date of his retirement came.