

OBITUARY

D M MACKAY, MBChB, FFCM, MRCP, FRACGP, FCCP, MIBiol, KOSJ

Dr Donald M Mackay was a distinguished doctor who had a great love for the continent of Africa as well as Bangladesh. Born in 1920, he died at his desk in the Ross Institute in London on 13 July 1981. He graduated from Glasgow and devoted all his career to tropical medicine. His first post was with a Church of Scotland hospital in Northern Rhodesia, but he left this and became a devout Catholic. He then spent some years in Ghana as medical officer to the West African Gold Corporation near Kumasi, and found his life's interest in tropical occupational health. From 1958 to 1973 he was Chief Medical Officer of Consolidated Tea and Lands Co Ltd, Bangladesh, and built up a superb health service around Sylhet, including the period of the war of independence.

From 1973 to his death he was deputy director of the Ross Institute and senior lecturer, and an outstanding teacher he proved to be. Each summer he visited Africa or Asia, and once Brazil, for several months. He served the St John's Ambulance Brigade since his days in Ghana, and was made Knight of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem. He taught also at Imperial College, the Polytechnic of the South Bank and the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, who had just appointed him dean. He wrote many papers, and edited Tropical Doctor, the Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and was medical editor of Health and Hygiene, every editorial being beautifully and fascinatingly written. He improved the finances of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine while its treasurer, and did much to help many charities.

His cheery spirit, loving Christian attitude to colleagues, patients, friends and students will be long remembered. He was deeply disturbed by the financial crises of the recession and their effect on tropical medicine aid from this country. African scholars mourn the loss of a fine colleague and send all their love and sympathy to his wife Barbara.

RALPH SCHRAM

As this issue of African Research and Documentation was being edited, we learned of the sad deaths of two of our Honorary Members:

Dame Margery Perham

Mr Thomas Hodgkin

Obituaries will appear in the next issue.