
OBITUARY

James Llewellyn Digby Roberts, O.St.J, TD, FRCS, FRCGP

Jim Digby Roberts died at his home on 31 January 1977 after a short illness, most courageously borne. He was 64.

He was the son of Dr Leonard Digby Roberts, who was a medical missionary in Kalimpong, India, where Digby was born. As a boy he used to go riding on horseback, hunting for butterflies. His father's fine collection was eventually taken over by Digby, who revised and expanded it considerably.

When he was 12 he returned to England and qualified in 1936 from St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he had resident appointments. In 1939 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

After further appointments at Liverpool Mill Lane Hospital, where he was injured in an air raid, and the Royal Northern Hospital, he joined the Army in 1942. This was to be the start of a long period of military service.

During the war he became a parachutist and surgeon to the Parachute Brigade, Airborne Division, and saw service in West Africa and the Middle East. When he was demobilized in 1947 he did not sever his relationship with the Army, because he continued to work with the Territorials, firstly as an Officer Commanding of the Casualty Clearing Station, at its headquarters in Eastbourne, and then as Assistant Director of Medical Services of the 44th Home Counties Division, with the rank of Colonel. In recognition of his service with the Territorial Army he was appointed an Officer of the Order of St John in 1965. After the disbanding of the Territorials he became the Medical Officer of the Sussex Army Cadet Force.

After five years in practice in Broxbourne he moved to Brighton in 1952, where he joined Dr Alexander Hall. From this time onwards his life was one of great activity, both professionally to his patients and his colleagues, and socially to the community in which he lived.

He was a devout Christian and was an active member of his own church as well as Chairman of the Brighton and Hove Area Committee of the Friends of Chichester Cathedral. He was also Founder Chairman of Hove Civic Society and actively supported many other local organizations.

However, his heart was in general practice and he



gave his time untiringly to his patients, who included the residents of an old people's home and a police convalescent home.

He was an active member of the BMA, being Divisional Treasurer for over ten years, and was a strong supporter of the Royal College of General Practitioners, in which he played an active part. He joined the Board of the South-East England Faculty in 1959, becoming Chairman of the Faculty Board in 1967, and Provost from 1969 to 1971. In recognition of his services to medicine and the College he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1970. His particular interest during this time was in education for general practice.

He was a great family doctor and a staunch and loyal friend to many, including his patients. His life was characterized by his unflinching kindness, devotion, and unselfish service. The medical profession has lost a dedicated member who will be missed by all his patients, friends, and colleagues.

J. W. SQUIRE

A. A. Michael-Phillips, FRCGP

Dr Michael-Phillips died on 2 January 1977, aged 61. He had been a member of the Faculty Board of the North-West of England Faculty since 1966, Chairman of its Education Committee since 1970, and Faculty Honorary Treasurer since 1974.

Dr Michael-Phillips was born in Trinidad. He qualified at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, in 1942 and after hospital residences served in the RAMC until 1946. In that year he became a general practitioner in Littleborough in Lancashire and from then he devoted himself to his large practice which he ran single-handedly for many years. He served his local BMA as Clinical Secretary for 15 years, Secretary for ten years, and Chairman for two years. He was passionately interested in medical education, being a very active member of the executive board of the Bateman Postgraduate Centre, as well as being college tutor for Rochdale.

His friends will remember him not only for his integrity and devotion to the highest standards of general practice, but for his kindness, his perfect manners, and the courageous way he bore his last illness. To his wife, his son, and his daughter we offer our deepest sympathy.

V. ADAMS