

## Obituary

### Dr J. M. HUNTER, M.D., F.R.C.G.P.

Dr J. M. Hunter died in hospital in Belfast on 17 September, 1973 at the age of 75.

Joseph Molyneaux Hunter was a member of the First Council of the College and continued a member of Council until 1964. With the late Dr J. Campbell Young of Belfast (who was a member of the Foundation Council) he was largely responsible for starting the Northern Ireland Faculty of the College. He was secretary of the Faculty Board for the first five years of its existence, Provost in 1959-60, and a member of the Faculty Board until two years ago.

He was always glad to foster professional co-operation throughout Ireland, and in particular between the four Irish Faculties of the College. An influential member of the steering committee that worked for the setting up of Irish Council of the College, he was the first chairman of Irish Council in 1962 and a member of that Council with very few breaks until quite recently. He was one of the first Fellows of the College.

Educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, on leaving school he served in the infantry in France in the latter years of the 1914-18 war. He was severely wounded, and discharged as permanently incapable. He studied medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1924 and proceeding to M.D. in 1929. He was in general practice in Portrush, Co. Antrim for over 20 years, and was Coroner for North Antrim.

In 1948, at the beginning of the National Health Service Dr Hunter left general practice to become Medical Adviser to the Northern Ireland General Health Services Board. In this office he came to know personally every general practitioner in Northern Ireland, and through his wide knowledge of the medical

profession and the practice of medicine, combined with his wisdom and concern for doctors and patients, he made a contribution to the working of the Health Service in Northern Ireland of which the value cannot be over-estimated. He was appointed an Honorary Physician to the Queen in 1953. Dr Hunter played a prominent part in the British Medical Association. For a number of years he was Honorary Secretary of the North-East Ulster Division and subsequently he was President of the Northern Ireland Branch, and was elected a Fellow of the British Medical Association and a Fellow of the Ulster Medical Society. An active member of the British Legion, he was President of the Queen's University Services Club in 1957.

He had an incisive but kindly sense of humour and was an excellent after-dinner speaker.

Dr Hunter retired in 1965, but until his short final illness he kept up his great interest in medical affairs. In his post with the Health Services Board he had been responsible for the organisation of postgraduate education for general practitioners and he followed with interest and satisfaction the great expansion that has taken place in this field in recent years, serving on the University Board for Postgraduate Medical Education. He often took the chair at lectures in the Belfast post-graduate centre and was frequently to be seen in the centre.

He never forgot his years in practice in Portrush, where he is still remembered with gratitude and affection by his former patients. In him, kindness and a sense of humour were joined with firmness of purpose and complete integrity. Among fellows and members of the College he will long be remembered for the part he played in the foundation of the Northern Ireland Faculty and in guiding its early years, and for his continuing contribution to the work of the College.

R. P. MAYBIN

## CORRESPONDENCE

### TESTS FOR BACTERURIA

Sir,

With reference to Mr Sendak's criticism, Mr A. Nicol of the Scottish General Practitioner Research Support Unit has made the following comments with which I agree:

"It is surprising that the discussion of false positives and false negatives did not alert Mr Sendak to the fact that tables such as his were

drawn up but not used. Tables 1 and 4 are the important ones whilst tables 2 and 3 play supporting roles only. Mr Sendak's table is really a combination of tables 1 and 3 to provide a better presentation of table 2 from the statistical viewpoint. A comparison of the 'Uricult' results obtained in general practice with those in the laboratory (where it would not normally be used) is not really the object of the study. The only