

Obituary

The Honourable D. A. Cameron, O.B.E.,
B.A., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.G.P.(Hon.), F.R.A.C.G.P.
(Hon.), M.R.A.C.G.P.

Donald Alastair Cameron, who died in Brisbane on January 5, 1974, was born in Ipswich, Queensland on 17 March 1900. He was a son of John Cameron, a general practitioner, and his wife Elizabeth, formerly Taylor.

Donald Cameron was educated at Ipswich Grammar School and the University of Sydney (St. Paul's College, of which he was senior student), where he graduated B.A. in 1920 and M.B., B.S. in 1927. After post-graduate training in Royal Prince Alfred and Prince Henry Hospitals he began general practice in Ipswich in 1932 and in 1933 married Miss Rhoda McLean.

He was an officer in the 1st Cavalry Field Ambulance (C.M.F.) until he transferred to R.A.A.M.C. (A.I.F.) in which he served with distinction during 1940-45 in the Middle East (including Tobruk), Ceylon, New Guinea and New Britain. His postings included command of 2/1st Australian Field Ambulance and A.D.M.S. 11th Australian Division. He was appointed an O.B.E. in 1945.

On demobilisation he returned to general practice in Ipswich, but this life was interrupted in 1949 when he was elected to the Commonwealth Parliament as a member of the House of Representatives, in which he retained his seat until 1962. During 1956-61 the Honour-

able Donald Cameron was Commonwealth Minister for Health and Minister in Charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and subsequently His Excellency the Australian High Commissioner in New Zealand during 1962-65.

In 1962 he was admitted as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners as well as of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. These honours were appropriate to a man whose family background, education, character, intellect, personality, and spheres of influence made him one of the eminent general practitioners of his generation.

In 1966 Dr Cameron returned to clinical work as a family doctor in a suburb of Brisbane. He was elected to the Queensland Branch Council of the Australian Medical Association, of which he became President in 1969-70. In 1971 his name was inscribed in the Roll of Fellows of the A.M.A.

Warm sympathy is offered to Donald Cameron's widow and their son, Donald (a physician), their daughter Elspeth (Mrs Douglas Graham) and seven grandchildren.

Donald Cameron served his country well in peace and war, but his work, in its many facets, is treasured in the hearts of his family, his patients and his friends. He was, in essence, one of those rare good peaceable men, of whom Thomas à Kempis wrote, "some can keep themselves in good peace, and can bring others to live in peace".

B. N. ADSETT
H. M. SAXBY

CORRESPONDENCE

JOINT CERTIFICATE ON CONTRACEPTION

Sir,

I hope you will allow me to express my extreme concern that the College should have agreed to the inclusion in the requirements for the Joint Certificate the statement that "if no relevant obstetric/gynaecological experience, . . . an assessment of adequate basic knowledge in gynaecological and clinical examination skills." I can only express dismay that the College in accepting this particular requirement should imply that any of its members let alone the majority at least of our colleagues in general practice who are not members are unable to undertake and perform

the necessary routine examination of any woman with a gynaecology complaint.

Unless the undergraduate training and the final examination has changed radically I cannot believe that there are many of our colleagues who passed this without satisfying their examiners regarding their ability in this basic skill. Though it is conceivable that some of our colleagues may have attempted to practise without using these particular skills, I am sure such individuals are very rare and should they present themselves as candidates to join the course for the Joint Certificate, their deficiency would be clearly identified in the third part of the course.

I am sure I am not alone in my concern on this