

service, so the only solution was a greater emphasis on prevention, an extension of the role of the practice nurse, and improved practice records and information systems. These were changes for which general practice did not have a mandate. It should therefore negotiate a mandate by means of a patients' group based on the practice.

After 90 minutes of group work the participants produced questions for the main discussion period. These concentrated on five main topics:

1. What are patient participation groups for?
2. What are the areas of activity of such groups and should limits be set?
3. How can doctors and patients be convinced of the usefulness of such groups?
4. How can they be made to work?
5. Are they effective?

Discussion was brisk but time precluded discussion of the key final question.

Chairman

In his closing address, Dr John Horder, said that in his view the attitude of the College was thoroughly supportive of patient participation. He welcomed the widespread enthusiasm of the people involved, not least the National Association for Patient Participation in General Practice, who would keep up the interest engendered by this very successful study day.

PETER PRITCHARD

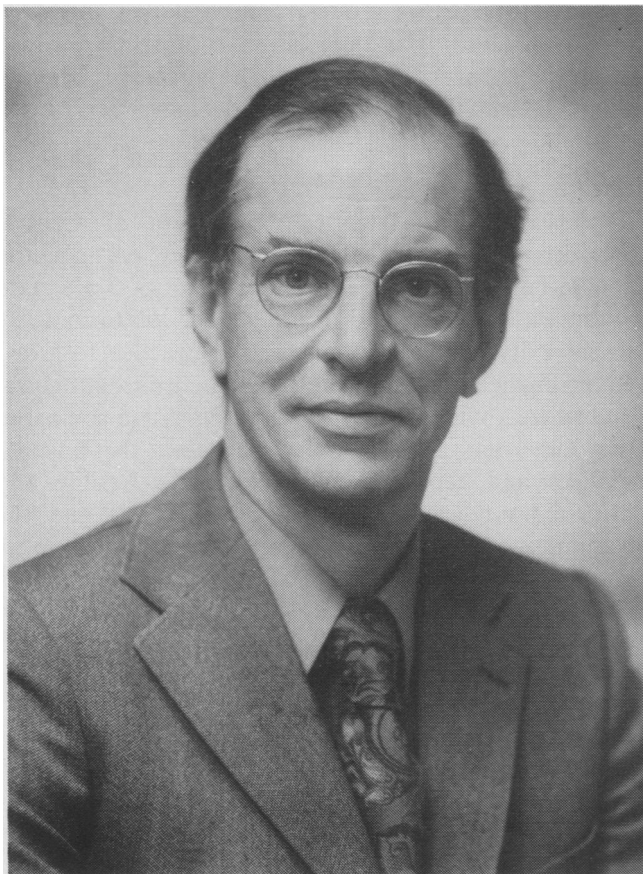
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OBITUARY

John Chivers Graves, OBE, FRCGP

WITH the death of Dr John Graves at the age of 57 on 17 January 1980, an era has come to an end.



The facts and figures of the development of the Graves Medical Audiovisual Library from its early beginnings as the Medical Recording Service Foundation, with 25 listeners of the College of General Practitioners' tape recording services in 1957, is of course fully documented in the annual reports. From these we can discover that the membership rose to over 28,000 in 1978/79 and that a supporting gift of £25 from a pharmaceutical company in the first year was to become a budget of £130,000. But facts and figures tell only a fraction of the story.

In 1956 when a questionnaire was sent out to all the new College members, John and Valerie Graves insisted that it should include a question on the possible value of a service from the College library which would provide tapeslides as a basis of discussion for small groups of general practitioners. The response was sufficiently encouraging to lead to the formation of the College's Medical Recording Service.

For the first four years John and Valerie worked entirely on their own. A full tape or recording library was started in 1961, and in 1962 they were joined by a librarian and secretary to help service over 400 general practitioner discussion groups. By 1965 there was a staff of six, and although by then postgraduate medical centres had begun to spring up, there was a steadily growing demand for loans by nursing colleges, junior hospital doctors, industry, public health, and overseas customers.

The smallpox outbreak in 1963 showed how the wide distribution of visual teaching material helped general

practitioners in a practical way to deal with a clinical situation which few had met before and knew only from the printed word.

The Graves' work for the Medical Recording Service was recognized in 1964 by the award of an OBE and by the College in the same year by the Foundation Council Award. In 1957 John was awarded an Upjohn Travelling Fellowship and in 1967 an ASME Commonwealth Travelling Fellowship. They were both made fellows of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1969.

In 1970 the Medical Recording Service became an independent foundation but was still part of the College's activities. However, in 1977 tax and charity legislation made it desirable to make the foundation wholly independent and it became the Graves Medical Audiovisual Library.

With its change of name came a change of site. Over the years the Library had spread through the house and into the garden so in November 1977 it was rehoused in new headquarters at Holly House, Chelmsford.

The output is tremendous and the Library has recently supplied over 25,000 audiovisual programmes in a single year. The enormous influence which John Graves brought to bear on the world of medical education is clearly expressed by the library index of titles and by the great number of organizations he was involved with during the past 21 years.

In analysing the unique and enormous contribution which John and Valerie Graves have made to medical education, it can be seen that they anticipated three great educational principles, all of which have come to be accepted in recent years. First of all they established a system which provided the education where the consumer wanted it, in his home and practice; secondly, they deliberately fostered the idea of small group meetings and from the early days they encouraged general practitioners to get together to discuss their programmes. Thirdly, by offering a wide choice, they

allowed consumers to select the material most appropriate to their learning needs. As the emphasis in general practice education moves from vocational to continuing education this achievement of the Graves' will be increasingly appreciated.

John Graves was in partnership with his wife, Valerie, in a rural practice in Writtle, for over 30 years and he gained and retained the respect and affection of his patients and the villages he served throughout his life.

An early member and organizer of the Northern Home Counties Faculty, he was later persuaded to return to what is now the Essex Faculty as Provost in 1977. He took this task as seriously as all his other work and tried to meet as many 'non-attenders' as he could on their home ground, their practices.

He was a committed member of the Society of Friends and gave so much of himself to his family and friends as well that it is amazing how he and Valerie managed to achieve such world-wide recognition for their audiovisual work. Their home, until recently shared with the Recording Service, reflected his wide interest in music and the visual arts which it was a privilege (though he and Valerie never felt it so) for his friends to share.

It is hard to believe that John, a man of so much energy and enthusiasm, has left us. We had grown to expect so much of him in so many ways. His kindness and generosity of spirit, his tolerance of those whose wits were less keen than his own, and his self-discipline in the pursuit of his own high standards made him an inspiring example who was yet fun to be with. He never knew how valuable he was to those who knew and loved him. The College, and all general practice, have lost a close friend.

We offer Valerie, his children, and grandchildren our sympathy, thanks, and encouragement.

J. BENNISON
E. V. KUENSSBERG

James Thomas Leo Unsworth, TD, MRCP

JAMES Thomas Leo Unsworth died on 4 September 1979 after a short illness. Dr Unsworth (Jim) was in practice in Westhoughton with his brother. His father and grandfather had been in the same practice before him.

Jim, who was born in Westhoughton on 8 January 1924, was educated at Thornleigh Salesian College, Bolton and Colten College, Staffordshire before going on to the University of Manchester where he graduated in medicine in 1947.

After doing house jobs at Manchester Infirmary (HS) and Warrington General Hospital (RSO) he did his National Service in the RAMC. On demobilization he retained his army connections by acting as medical officer to the Bolton Territorial Artillery until the Territorial Army was dissolved. He was awarded the TD in 1964.

He was a founder member of the College and was interested in teaching. He was a member of the 'outer ring' of general practitioner teachers for the Manchester Department of General Practice. He was also one of the first two trainers when Bolton started the three-year vocational training scheme.

On reorganization of the NHS in 1974 Jim became a member of the Bolton Area Health Authority and at the time of his death he was Chairman of the Bolton Family Practitioner Committee and President of the Bolton Medical Society, member of the local medical committee and many other commitments. He was a friendly person beloved by colleagues and patients alike. He lived for 15 years on a farm where he kept sheep and bred ducks as a hobby.

His wife Joyce and three sons (one medically qualified) survive him. We all miss him greatly.

J. M. BISSET