

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. D. G. ALLEN, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr. David Gilbert Allen in January 1968.

Dr. Allen was born on the 29th October 1910, and received his medical education at Cambridge and at King's College Hospital, London, where he gained the Jelf medal and other prizes. He graduated in 1935, and after early appointments at King's College Hospital he entered general practice in Streatham.

During the Second World War he worked first as anaesthetist at the Leatherhead E.M.S. Hospital and became Medical Officer in charge of the Spinal Injuries Unit at that hospital. He was one of the first who, following a visit to Stoke Mandeville, accepted whole-heartedly the then new concept of the management of spinal cord sufferers, and the excellent results he achieved in their rehabilitation made his unit one of the best war-time spinal units in the United Kingdom.

After the war, he returned to his practice but was appointed Medical Officer to the spinal unit at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, London, where he worked for 21 years and won the great affection of his patients (mainly tetraplegics) and his staff alike. He was interested in the social resettlement of his patients and in particular in sport, where he took a very active part. Already in 1944, he started basketball amongst his paralyzed ex-servicemen. He supported his team regularly in the National and International sports contests and was one of the Medical Officers to accompany the British team to the first International Stoke Mandeville Games to be held abroad, in Rome in 1960. A keen snooker player himself, he developed a team of snooker players amongst his patients at the Star and Garter, who, on occasions, played matches against first-class able-bodied players.

Dr. Allen's dynamic personality and great devotion to his work will be sadly missed in the field of paraplegia. He was one of the early members of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, and we extend to his widow and his daughter, who is a medical student, our deepest sympathy.