

OBITUARY

I. N. ORPWOOD PRICE, 1900-62



Ivor Noble Orpwood Price was born on New Year's Day, 1900. He was educated at Newport High School and qualified at the London Hospital in 1922, taking the D.P.H. in 1924. After holding various house-appointments, he trained in clinical pathology in the Hale Clinical Laboratory at the London Hospital and was appointed Assistant Pathologist to the Venereal Diseases department of St. Thomas's Hospital. Here he worked under Col. L. W. Harrison and Dr. T. E. Osmond and his interests became centred on the diagnosis of venereal disease by laboratory methods, to which he devoted the rest of his working life.

In 1930 he left St. Thomas's to take up an appointment as Pathologist to the Whitechapel Clinic, then under the London County Council, and he was

appointed to the consultant staff of the London Hospital when the clinic was taken over by the Hospital on the introduction of the National Health Service. He also held appointments as Bacteriologist to the Soho Hospital for Women and the Bearstead Memorial Hospital, but these he relinquished in 1950. During the second world war he undertook clinical work at the University College Venereal Diseases Clinic and in 1944 was appointed Director of the Medical Research Council's Venereal Diseases Reference Laboratory. He served as civilian Consultant in Serology to the Royal Navy, an appointment which gave him great pleasure, as he had served in the Navy as a Surgeon probationer during the first world war. Price's reputation as a leading authority on his subject spread far beyond the

United Kingdom and he served the World Health Organization as an adviser in the laboratory aspects of venereal diseases and carried out for this body a survey of V.D. Laboratory Services in countries of the Middle East. He was a staunch supporter of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases and served on its Council on many occasions and was also a member of the British Cooperative Clinical Group. The *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* owes him much for his work as Assistant Editor from 1943 until his retirement in 1959.

As a laboratory worker Price made numerous important contributions to the literature of his subject, many of his papers appearing in this Journal. His work included studies on the gonococcal complement-fixation test, the oxydase reaction, culture media for the gonococcus, the preparation and standardization of gold sols, a standardized Wassermann technique, a precipitation test for syphilis (which bears his name and is widely used in this country), the preparation and composition of cardiolipin antigens, and in later years the use of antigens derived from *Treponema pallidum* for the serological diagnosis of syphilis. He was more interested in the practical aspects of new tests and advances than in their theoretical implications, preferring simple apparatus and methods, and his work has undoubtedly done much to improve the standard

of laboratory methods for the diagnosis of venereal disease.

As a man, Price was unassuming and direct, holding strong opinions which he was not afraid to voice. His good nature made him many friends and his laboratory was visited by many workers from this country and abroad. He took a very personal interest in his staff who found him a most approachable Chief who would always make time to listen to a problem, whether of a personal nature or connected with their work, and who could be relied upon to give advice, often forthrightly expressed, but always marked by sound common sense. He was a great family man and lover of country life and country ways, and professed a scorn of those who were content to remain mere "townies". He was an enthusiastic and very capable gardener, and it came as a bitter blow when he had to curtail his activities through illness. Despite his physical disability he tried to carry on and those who saw his struggle could not but admire his great courage. In the end he had to give in and he retired in 1959. He died suddenly on December 6, 1962, and with his passing we have lost a very distinguished figure in the field of venereology.

Dr. Price leaves a widow and four children, one of whom is a doctor; to them we express our sincere sympathy.

A.E.W.

HENRY HABER, 1900-62

Henry Haber's sudden death in Edinburgh at the age of 61 came as a great shock to his many friends and colleagues. He was born on October 3, 1900, and received his medical education in Prague, where he worked for several years with Kreibich in the University Clinic for Venereology.

Together with his wife he escaped from the Hitler regime in Czechoslovakia and, after a terrible journey, reached England in March, 1939. He rapidly made friends in his first hospital appointments at the London Skin Hospital and the Venereal Diseases Department at St. Peter's Hospital. Later he became clinical assistant at St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, and house-surgeon at the Lock Hospital.

In 1944 he was commissioned major in the R.A.M.C. as venereal disease specialist, first in South-

Eastern Command and afterwards in India. It was during his service in India that he heard of the deaths in concentration camps, of his mother, his three brothers, and other relatives.

On his return to London in 1947 he became registrar in the Department of Pathology at St. John's Hospital and, in 1948, assistant pathologist there. His duties included post-graduate teaching in the histology and histopathology of the skin. He was soon recognized as a man of outstanding talent and ultimately became known internationally as one of the quite small number of masters of his art. He was not only a histopathologist whose aid was sought by many general pathologists but also a very able clinician who often surprised his seniors by the accuracy of his diagnoses before biopsy.

Dr. G. B. Dowling has already said of Haber's