Arthur Bulleid (1892-1957)

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GUY'S HOSPITAL GAZETTE

OBITUARY

ARTHUR BULLEID, F.D.S.R.C.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The death of Arthur Bulleid on 26th May, 1957, in Nuffield House, has robbed Guy's of a distinguished figure and a man whose personal charm inspired both trust and affection in his colleagues, students and patients alike.

Born on 5th November, 1892, Arthur Bulleid entered Guy's Hospital Medical School in October, 1910, to take the combined medical and dental course. His training was interrupted in 1914 when he joined the Artists' Rifles and he served in France until the early part of 1916. In that year he was released from the Army and completed his medical studies in 1917, having gained the coveted Treasurer's Gold Medal for Clinical Medicine. On re-enlistment he was transferred to the R.A.M.C. and was drafted to Turkey where he had charge of the Central Clinical Laboratory at Constantinople. It was this appointment which had such a lasting influence on his professional career, for he loved the work and henceforth became devoted to bacteriology.

Returning to Guy's in 1920, he completed his dental studies and the following year married Miss Kitty Cook who was at that time nursing at Guy's. Unfortunately, there was no opening for him in bacteriology and he entered dental practice with his elder brother who was already well established in Portland Place. Whilst accepting that there was no alternative to this, his interest in bacteriology persisted and his enthusiasm brought him into contact with Dr. Eyre, then Professor of Bacteriology. In the latter part of 1921 he became Dental Assistant Bacteriologist at Guy's and in the following year was appointed to the Dental Staff.

Those of us who were privileged to be his friends knew that he always hoped that when Professor Eyre retired he would be appointed in his place, but this, perhaps his greatest ambition, was not to be, and Arthur had to curtail his work on bacteriology and spend more time in dental practice.

However, his association with Professor Eyre and his research on dental bacteriology made him internationally known, particularly as...
he was a gifted speaker and much in demand as a lecturer. His interest in bacteriology gained a practical outlet in the small laboratory which he established at home, where he was able to provide a pathological service for the local medical practitioners. He found this work absorbing and he loved to return to it in the evenings after a busy day at hospital or in the practice.

He was awarded the Cartwright Prize in 1936 as well as the Tomes Prize, and was Hunterian Professor between 1935 and 1936. After the last War he devoted more time to his teaching at Guy's and examined for the London University and the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1950 he was appointed to the Board of the Dental Faculty. This was work for which he was particularly suited, and his death, at the time when he was Vice-Dean, has deprived the College of an enthusiastic, constructive and loyal Fellow.

His students loved and trusted him for he was an excellent teacher and a kind one, showing a very sympathetic understanding of their problems. He took a keen interest in all the Hospital activities and became a very active President of the Hockey Club. Only two days before he died he attended their social meeting and gave an informal chat.

Arthur lived quietly and his work was his hobby. Nevertheless, he enjoyed a game of golf and loved his garden, although those who knew him well suspected that Kitty was responsible for most of the latter.

It was a privilege to be with him on a golfing weekend and I can recall many happy occasions when we motored down to Bramshot to take part in a meeting of a golfing society of which we were both members. He had a wonderful way of silently conveying his pleasure. He would be the first off the tee in the morning and whilst the more leisurely members were shaving, Arthur could be seen striding down the course, swinging his club, radiating his happiness and well-being. And then later, quite suddenly he would say: "What about going home?"

for he did not like to be away from Kitty too long. Arthur was never known to speak unkindly and was admired by all who knew him. His death leaves a void which will be difficult to fill and we shall miss seeing his familiar figure striding through the Park.

We mourn not only a great teacher but a very lovable man, and our thoughts are with Kitty in this time of sorrow.

W.K.P.