

of the History of Medicine Section at the Royal Society of Medicine from 1975 to 1977, later being elected an Honorary Member. He was active in the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries, promoting the work on continuing professional education pursued by the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy. He was their Sydenham Medallist in 1978, before becoming President of the Faculty in 1981 and later Honorary Fellow.

Cartwright's many publications were notable not simply for their scholarship but also for their elegance of prose. His books included *The English Pioneers of Anaesthesia* (1952), well known to members of this Society and one of the earlier books of its kind. He followed this with four other important books and numerous articles on the history of medicine and surgery. To historians he was probably best known for the wide-ranging *Disease and History*, which first appeared in 1972 and was translated into French and Japanese. This he thoroughly updated for a new edition published on the eve of his 91st birthday, having done all the word processing himself.

Ferdie Cartwright is remembered by many younger historians for his courtesy and the personal interest he took in their ideas, often at the Royal Society of Medicine, where he invited them to join him at dinner to further his conversations with them. He was interested in anything and everything, a perfect gentleman in the best sense of that overworked term.

His final home was at Swallowfield in Berkshire, where until his death he presided over the flourishing local history society. He was a knowledgeable gardener, and an equally enthusiastic correspondent to successive editors of *The Times*, who published letters from him across a span of no fewer than 65 years. His last letter appeared eight months before his death. In submitting his obituary to *The Times*, his historian son-in-law, Professor Biddiss, particularly requested that, if cuts were necessary, the editor should preserve the reference to *The Times* itself. He wrote: 'The thought of us making, now, a final allusion to that almost unsurpassed record would, I believe, have given him particular pleasure'. Sadly, *The Times* did not adhere to this request.

Dr Cartwright is survived by his wife Patience, three daughters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandsons.

(I am grateful for the help of Professor Michael and Mrs Ruth Biddiss and Dr T D W Davies in compiling this tribute.)

**Aileen K Adams**

## **C S Ward**

Crispian Stanley Ward was born on 11 May 1925 in Sevenoaks, and died at the Kirkwood Hospice in Huddersfield on 6 June 2002 aged 77. He attended Bryanston School in Dorset, where a good deal of experience in electronics must have stimulated his lifelong interest in engineering. However, he remained nominally an amateur, for he studied medicine at Guy's, qualifying MB BS in 1949 and took up house appointments at Croydon. Called up into the RAF he took a three-year commission, giving anaesthetics. Demobilised with the rank of Squadron Leader, he continued his postgraduate training on the famous Liverpool course, and obtained his FFARCS in 1956. He was appointed Consultant Anaesthetist to the Huddersfield

Royal Infirmary in 1957 where he remained until 1989, when ill health forced his early retirement.

The life of a consultant in a busy district general hospital was arduous both day and night, but he energetically undertook additional responsibilities. He planned, commissioned and equipped an electronic and biomedical engineering department, and the anaesthetic, resuscitation, intensive care and operating facilities of the new hospital. In the town he served appropriately on the Gas Board. No wonder he was revered locally. In what he laughingly referred to as his spare time he was a committed dental anaesthetist, (never tiring of reminding me that he personally administered more chair anaesthetics than the whole of the Manchester Dental Hospital). He set up a community dental clinic for the handicapped and was a founder member of the Association of Dental Anaesthetists, and its President in 1988 at its first international meeting. He also frequently attended meetings of many other Societies, and was of course an honorary member of the HAS.

Interpolated in and informing all his activity was his love of equipment. His collected historical pieces are now on show at his hospital and in the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds. Much in demand as consultant and lecturer at home and abroad, his down to earth approach drew admiration. But his best-known achievements were his books: *Ward's Anaesthetic Equipment*, a classic now in its 4th edition, and *Electrical Safety in Hospitals*. These were written at typical personal sacrifice for, to find the time, he wrote for an hour a day before work from 4 to 5 am!

Cris had a big and generous personality, with strongly held views and openly expressed enthusiasms, such as the grammatical use of English, and dislikes, such as Jehovah's Witnesses. The energy with which he carried them through, and his readiness always to help made him a delightful companion, and gained him lasting friendship. I first met him in the RAF in Germany when, though his French was fluent, it soon became apparent (except to him) that his German was limited. Nevertheless such was his enthusiasm and self-confidence, that with liberal use of body language, six words were sufficient for him to order his beer with the best - a necessary skill to an indefatigable partygoer, eater and drinker. He was a rarity at that time, a junior officer with his own car and thus very popular, for he was always generously giving lifts. As he said: 'such a little thing, but it means so much'. He took a brother officer and me on a splendid tour of the country, not only doing all the driving himself, but also enlivening the trip with frequent renditions of an adaptation of the song 'Three German Officers crossed the Rhine.....' (and subsequently behaved quite unspeakably!).

Back in civilian life he renovated his large family home himself to include such refinements, forward looking at the time, as central heating triggered by the external temperature, and an outside play area covered against the rain for his three sons, of whom he was very proud. He took care to provide them with much formative experience, such as dinghy sailing, in conditions calculated 'to put hair on their chests'.

In his somewhat handicapped retirement he retreated to a flat, a splendid eyrie with views over the town. There he occupied himself in handicrafts in wood and metal, besides cooking and entertaining and keeping abreast of the changing medical scene, on which, as usual, he had opinions!

In the late eighties he contracted the disease that was eventually to be his undoing. The treatment was successful, giving him, he admitted, some 15 years that he would not otherwise have had. But the side effects were considerable, unpleasant and incommencing. In his case the overused phrase 'a long illness, bravely borne' really did apply. I often heard him describe his problems, wryly and with a professional detachment, but I never heard him complain. Towards the end he tired of the struggle, and spoke of 'dying with dignity'.

After his death, consonant with his views, his life was celebrated by a non-religious Humanist committal. As befitted his popularity it was extremely well attended (standing room only), and was followed by a party, to accord with his expressed instruction that his friends should 'have a knees-up'.

Cris Ward was a 'big' man, a good man and a good friend. Many will long remember him.

### **Tod Young**

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*As we went to press we heard the sad news of the death of our Honorary Member Dr W D A Smith OBE. A fuller appreciation will appear in the next volume.*