OBITUARIES

DR. NEIL ALEXANDER STEWART

THE SUDDEN DEATH of Dr. Neil Alexander Stewart occurred in Vancouver, B.C. on January 16, 1969. Born in Calgary, Alberta, Dr. Stewart attended the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta, graduating from the latter institution with the degree of M.D. in 1932.

Following internship at St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, and postgraduate training in the New York Polyclinic, he established a medical practice in Vancouver. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, attaining the rank of Squadron Leader.

In 1946 he was granted his certification in anaesthesia by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and was appointed to the staff of St. Vincent's Hospital, Vancouver. From 1952 to 1968 he was director of anaesthesia at St. Vincent's Hospital, and he was also chief of staff at the same hospital from 1964 to 1966.

Dr. Stewart was a member of the Canadian Medical Association, the B.C. Division of the Canadian Medical Association, and the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. He was a charter member of the B.C. Division of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, which was officially inaugurated on April 6, 1945, and throughout his career was an ardent advocate and supporter of improved training and education in the specialty of anaesthesia.

At the time of his death, Dr. Stewart was head medical officer for Air Canada's Vancouver operations. He was widely known in the aviation field and was an acknowledged expert in aviation medicine, having worked to set up the medical requirements now in effect for commercial flying crews.

Dr. Stewart was a member of the Aviation Lodge no. 17, A.F. and A.M., and the Point Grey Golf Club.

To his widow, son, and daughter, the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society extends sincerest sympathy. His death is especially regretted by his associates in Vancouver, and by the members of the B.C. Division, Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. Dr. Stewart was sixty-four years of age.

DR. RUSSELL JAMES FRASER

DR. FRASER died suddenly at his home, in Hamilton, Ontario on February 10, 1969. His death followed a long and frustrating illness that had compelled him to retire in 1953.

Dr. Fraser was born in Massey, Ontario, where he grew up and completed his early education. His schooling was interrupted during the First World War when he served overseas with the Canadian Forces. Upon returning to Canada in 1918 he resumed his studies and graduated in medicine from the University of Western

Ontario in 1928. During his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, he became interested in anaesthesia and spent much of his spare time in the operating room. It soon became evident to the surgical staff that Dr. Fraser was capable of administering safe and very satisfactory anaesthetics to patients. When he entered general practice a year later, the demand for his services as an anaesthetist became so great that he spent most of his mornings in the hospital serving in this capacity.

Dr. Fraser continued to improve his knowledge of anaesthesia by attending meetings in Canada and the United States. He attended a specialists' course in Philadelphia and in 1945 spent some time in Montreal studying anaesthesia under the able guidance of Drs. Wesley Bourne, Harold Griffith, and Digby Leigh.

Dr. Fraser was appointed Chief of the Anaesthetic Service at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1945, and held this post until his illness in 1953. During this period he spent a great deal of his time lecturing to the nursing staff and instructing interns in clinical anaesthesia.

Dr. Fraser was one of the pioneers of spinal anaesthesia in Hamilton. He eliminated the greatest hazard of the procedure by establishing rigid rules for a completely sterile technique. He also developed a light procaine solution which was prepared under the name of Westocaine. This was used by himself and his staff in certain procedures with apparent safety for many years.

Dr. Fraser was a conscientious and sincere worker in both the administrative and clinical aspects of his specialty, and he held many offices with capability and efficiency. He was Secretary of the Medical Board of St. Joseph's Hospital, Secretary and later Chairman of the Section of Anaesthesia of the Hamilton Academy of Medicine, an active member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and a member of the International Anesthesia Research Society and the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. He was for several years a Member of Council of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society and in 1953 was elected President of the Society—the highest honour bestowed upon a member. Unfortunately, however, he was unable to carry out the duties of office due to the onset of his tragic illness. When he was forced to retire, a great sense of loss was felt by his colleagues in Hamilton who knew him best and greatly admired his dedication to his specialty.

During the long years which followed a stroke that left him unable to read, write, or converse, his greatest comfort was being with his family and receiving visits from old friends.

Dr. Fraser is survived by his wife, Mildred, whose loving care made it easier for him to accept this affliction, and by two sons, Russell and Malcolm, both of Toronto.