OBITUARY

DR. CHARLES HAROLD ROBSON

DR. CHARLES HAROLD ROBSON, Chief from 1919 to 1950 of the Department of Anaesthesia at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, died January 2, 1969 at Sunnybrook Hospital in his eighty-fifth year after a prolonged illness.

Born in New Westminster, B.C., he obtained his arts degree at Columbian College in 1908 and graduated in medicine at McGill in 1913. Following an internship at Montreal General Hospital he went overseas in World War I with No. 1 Canadian General Hospital and was the senior ranking anaesthetist in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces overseas. In the army he was noted for his technique of digital endotracheal intubation, and he taught it to many others.

After faithful and distinguished service overseas he returned to Canada in 1919 to become the first physician in the full-time practice of anaesthesia on the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children, and the chief of that department. At the same time he was anaesthetist at the Christie Street DVA Hospital and the Davisville Military Hospital until it was closed. In 1925 he was also appointed Chief Anaesthetist at the Toronto Hospital for Tuberculosis, Weston, a position he held until his complete retirement from practice in 1959. From 1935 until 1950 he held a teaching appointment at the University of Toronto.

Robby, although a man of few words, was affectionately regarded by his colleagues and was one of the original group in the old Travel Club which later became the Academy of Anesthesiology. His memberships included the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the International Anaesthesia Research Society, and the Toronto Academy of Medicine.

He is mourned by his widow Flora, whom he met and married when she was a nursing sister in No. 1 Canadian General Hospital in 1916; by three sons, Dr. Charles John Robson, Chief of Urological Surgery at Toronto General Hospital, Dr. David B. Robson, of Thornhill, Ontario, and Mr. Robert D. Robson, an engineer in Buffalo, N.Y.; and by seven grandchildren.

Our sympathy goes to all the family.