OBITUARY

GEORGE HERBERT WILLIAM LUCAS, PH.D.

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS of Tuesday, June 25, 1974, Dr. G.H.W. Lucas passed away, two months before he would have celebrated his 80th birthday.

Dr. Lucas was born in Parkhill, Ontario, on August 25, 1894. He attended the University of Toronto as a student in Honour Science, and received his Ph.D. degree in physical chemistry in 1923 while being a lecturer in Chemical Engineering. In the years 1924-26, he was closely associated with the late Sir Frederick Banting. He joined the Department of Pharmacology as an Assistant Professor in 1926, and was Professor of Pharmacology from 1945-1965. He retired from full-time service in 1963 but continued teaching on a part-time basis until 1965 when he became Professor Emeritus. In spite of a health problem, he continued working and making his rich experiences available to others. At the time of his death, he was still a Special Consultant on Drugs and Therapeutics, to the Ministry of Health of the Province of Ontario, and he was a member of the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee. At the same time, he was a Consultant to the Federal Department of Agriculture in respect to drug-testing laboratories throughout Canada.

Dr. Lucas achieved international recognition for the discovery of cyclopropane in 1928. At that time, Dr. V.E. Henderson, Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, and Dr. W.E. Brown, Anaesthetist at the Toronto General Hospital, collaborated in research in anaesthesia. Dr. Lucas, serving as the biochemist in the Department of Pharmacology, encountered cyclopropane as a chemical oddity, proposed its pharmacological investigations, and then found with Dr. Henderson its ability to smoothly anaesthetize animals. Sir Frederick Banting was one of the first human volunteers to submit to anaesthesia with this new agent. For many years, cyclopropane was a most widely used general anaesthetic throughout the world.

Dr. Lucas initiated, or took prominent part in, many research projects, particularly in toxicology. His studies concerning alcohol and road traffic set an important pattern. He was pre-eminent as a medical expert in court cases involving poisoning and firearms.

As a teacher of pharmacology and toxicology, Dr. Lucas will be remembered by generations of students in the Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry. He was author and joint author, or joint editor, of numerous publications. In 1933, he was Secretary of the Canadian Committee on Pharmaceutical Standards, and in 1945-46 a member of the Canadian Medical Association Committee compiling the Physician's Formulary. His book entitled "Symptoms and Treatment of Acute Poisoning," appeared in 1952.

Because of Dr. Lucas' interest in sports as well as in toxicology, he undertook in 1934, at the request of the Ontario Jockey Club, the task of detecting drugs in racehorses. He then served for many years as analyst for racing commissions in

Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba and became president of the international "Association of Official Racing Chemists."

Dr. Lucas was Past President of the Canadian Chemical Association, The Pharmacological Society of Canada, The Toronto Biochemical and Biophysical Society, The Royal Canadian Institute, the Toronto branch of the Colour Photographic Association of Canada, of the Academy of Medicine Camera Club, and of the Ontario Arms Collectors Association. He was Captain of the University of Toronto Rifle Association from 1925-69. The Hart House Revolver Club and the Hart House Archery Club were formed under his direction. Dr. Lucas was a member of fourteen scientific societies in Canada and the United States. He was an Honorary Member of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society.

In his unassuming way, Dr. Lucas helped and supported many students and he gained many lasting friendships. Because of his humor, he was an often-sought after-dinner speaker.

Dr. Lucas leaves behind his wife Peg (nee Mary Woolner), his companion and outstanding support for more than fifty years, including the last difficult years when there were periods of failing health. He leaves a son and a daughter, and four grandchildren.

July 12, 1974.

W. Kalow, M.D.

OBITUARY

DR. H.H. NEILY, 80 Queen Elizabeth Drive, an anaesthetist at Charlottetown Hospital since 1971, died unexpectedly at his Charlottetown home June 29, 1974. He was 53.

A native of Middleton, N.S., Dr. Neily served with the RCAF from 1940-45, spending three years on overseas duty. During that time he was engaged in special missions into Africa and Italy. The last few months of World War II were spent at Canadian Forces Base in Summerside.

Following his military service he entered Dalhousie Medical School, graduation in 1952. He once again entered the service and for several years was medical officer with the RCAF. In 1959 he began special training in anaesthesia and was certified as an anaesthetist by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1963. He served as senior anaesthetist with the Canadian Forces in Ziverbrucken and Lahr in West Germany. In 1971 he began private practice of anaesthesia at Charlottetown Hospital.

Fellow doctors at Charlottetown Hospital lauded Dr. Neily's humaneness as a physician, his compassion for his patients, his outstanding composure and skill and his great pride in his special craft.

He is survived by his wife, Edith, and three sons Richard, Jeff and Tim.