OBITUARIES

MABEL KATHLEEN BELTON, M.D., C.M.

Dr. Mabel Kathleen Belton, a Canadian pioneer in paediatric anaesthesia, died at Oxnard, California, on August 19, 1980 following a lingering illness. She was 64 years of age.

Kay Belton was born in Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan, the only daughter of a presbyterian minister. Her early education was in Saskatchewan, at the University of Saskatchewan, from which she received her B.A. degree in 1936. She attended Medical School in Saskatchewan for two years and then completed her medical training at McGill University, graduating in 1941. Following internship at Montreal General Hospital, she completed postgraduate training in Pathology at McGill, and in Anaesthesia at the Toronto General Hospital, Montreal General Hospital and the Children's Memorial Hospital in Montreal. Certificated by the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada in 1946, she was appointed Assistant Director of Anaesthesia at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Montreal, and was also appointed to the teaching staff of McGill University.

When the present Department of Anaesthesia was formed at the Vancouver General Hospital in July 1947, Dr. Belton accompanied the late Dr. M.D. Leigh and other Montreal anaesthetists to Vancouver, where she became anaesthetist in charge of paediatric anaesthesia. At the same time, she was appointed to the staff of the Vancouver Children's Hospital.

In 1954 Dr. Belton resigned from the staff of the Vancouver General Hospital to become Assistant Director of Anaesthesia at the Los Angeles Children's Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Southern California Medical School. She held these positions until 1960, when she entered into the private practice of anaesthesia in Oxnard, California, becoming the first Director of Anaesthesia at St. John's Hospital in that city. She retired from active practice in 1978 due to illness.

A gifted clinical anaesthetist and teacher in all aspects of anaesthesia, her particular interest was in teaching, research, and promotion of paediatric anaesthesia. She collaborated with the late Dr. M.D. Leigh in the publication of the first text book on Paediatric Anaesthesia which was

published in September 1948, with a second edition a year later.

Having established practice in California, Kay became active in the California Society of Anaesthesiologists, and was the first woman President of that Society in 1967. In 1979, she received the California Society's highest honour – The Distinguished Service Award. For many years, she was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Arthur E. Guedel Memorial Anaesthesia Center and Library.

During her active days of private practice, Kay suspended practice and served in Vietnam and Tunisia, promoting paediatric anaesthesia. In 1979, the city of Oxnard honoured her as "Woman of the Year", for her community efforts.

Those of us who were associated with Dr. Belton at McGill and in Vancouver will always remember her with affection and as a dedicated member of the specialty of anaesthesia. The California Society of Anaesthesiology aptly summarized her contribution to society –

"Her volunteer work with her church and with the city of Oxnard complete the practice of an involved, committed citizen. The example of her life is that of a physician who has contributed enormously to the development and status of our specialty, service to her community, which is the world, and as a caring leader her efforts have enriched the specialty of anaesthesiology".

H.B. GRAVES

DR. JOHN LEYS OULTON, MDCM (1921–1981)

Dr. John Leys Oulton, Clinical Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology, U.B.C., and Assistant Director, Department of Anaesthesiology, Vancouver General Hospital, passed away suddenly at his cottage in Sudden Valley, Washington, on July 11th, 1981.

John Oulton was born in St. Lambert, P.Q. Following grade school education, he entered McGill University, receiving his B.Sc. Degree in 1948, and his M.D.C.M. Degree in 1950. His internship was at the Montreal General Hospital. In 1951, he enrolled in the post-graduate course in

Anaesthesia at McGill University, and received his specialist certification in 1955.

For one year he was a staff member at the Notre Dame Hospital in Montreal, and then came to Vancouver in 1956, joining the staff of the Vancouver General Hospital and the University of British Columbia.

In 1971, he was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Anaesthesia at U.B.C., and in 1979, Clinical Associate Professor. In 1975 he was appointed Assistant Director, Department of Anaesthesia, Vancouver General Hospital.

John was a dedicated clinical anaesthetist and

teacher, with special aptitude in evaluation and development of anaesthetic equipment. He took an active interest in his profession; was Chairman of the B.C. Division of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society in 1966, and represented B.C. on the Council of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. His special hobbies were flying and boating, and enjoyment of his cottage in Sudden Valley.

John Oulton was sixty years of age at the time of his death, and is survived by his widow, Willa and three daughters.

H.B. GRAVES