OBITUARY

FREDERICK ARTHUR HARVEY WILKINSON

FORMER STUDENTS and colleagues across Canada will learn with regret of the death of Arthur Wilkinson on April 7, 1959. Arthur underwent surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital in December, 1958, and then learned that he must face a progressive and incurable condition. He accepted the situation with great courage and until shortly before his death, enjoyed the comradeship of his friends, discussing the past and the future of anaesthesia.

Arthur Wilkinson, the son of a minister, was born at Sawyerville, Quebec, in 1906 and as his father moved from parish to parish, attended schools at Prescott and Perth, Ontario. He taught school for one year before entering the Faculty of Arts at McGill. He then proceeded to Medicine and graduated from McGill in the class of 1933. Following a rotation year at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, he commenced his training in anaesthesia at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, under Dr. William Howell. In 1936 he acquired further training in England and was the first Canadian to write the examinations for Diploma in Anaesthesia of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of England.

Following his return to Montreal he was appointed to the Attending Staff of the Royal Victoria and Demonstrator in Anaesthesia at McGill University. In

1944, Anaesthesia became a full department at the Royal Victoria and Dr. Wilkinson became the first Anaesthetist-in-Chief. He was later promoted to Assistant Professor.

Arthur was a skilled and competent anaesthetist and a master of spinal techniques. He was an excellent practical teacher and many of us will always remember his patient instruction. During the Second World War, he supervised a large and active programme, trained residents and many medical officers of all three services. He later served faithfully and actively as President of the Quebec Division of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, and as an examiner of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada.

After a period of prolonged ill health, he requested retirement in 1955 and was appointed to the Honorary Consulting Staff. With fewer responsibilities, he was able to enjoy his small home in the country and frequently turned up at meetings to chat with his colleagues.

Arthur Wilkinson will be remembered as a diligent contributor to his specialty and a faithful servant of the Royal Victoria Hospital. He leaves his mother and two brothers, all of Montreal.

A. B. NOBLE, M.D.