THE CANADIAN ANAESTHETISTS' SOCIETY MEDAL

THE COUNCIL of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society has instituted an award in the form of a Medal, to be presented by the Society for Meritorious Service in Anaesthesia.

From ancient times important events have been marked by the striking of a medal to commemorate the event, and important achievements have been rewarded by the presentation of medals to mark the achievement. We feel that it is fitting that the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society should have adopted this traditional form for the recognition of important service to the Profession of Medicine in the Specialty of Anaesthesia.

The institution of this award has provided an occasion for Canadian Anaesthetists to express in an appropriate way their appreciation of the services rendered to the specialty by three outstanding Canadians in the persons of Dr. Wesley Bourne, Dr. Harry Shields, and Dr. Harold Griffith. While the award in each case is made for outstanding service in their professional careers, it is undoubtedly true that the same selection could have been made on the basis of the personal love and esteem which these three men command in the hearts of the anaesthetists of Canada.

LA MEDAILLE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ANESTHÉSISTES

Le conseil de la Société Canadienne des Anesthésistes a institué une récompense sous la forme d'une médaille. La Société présentera cette médaille à ceux qui ont rendu des services insignes en anesthésie.

Depuis des temps reculés, on a pris l'habitude de signaler les événements importants par la frappe d'une médaille pour mieux les commémorer, et les réalisations importantes ont été récompensées par la présentation de médailles pour signaler ce fait. Nous croyons qu'il est bien dans l'ordre que le Société Canadienne des Anesthésistes adopte cette façon traditionnelle de reconnaître les services importants rendus à la médecine dans la spécialité d'anesthésie.

L'institution de cette récompense a fourni l'occasion aux anesthésistes canadiens d'exprimer de façon appropriée leur appréciation pour les services rendus à la spécialité par trois Canadiens transcendants dans la personne des docteurs Wesley Bourne, Harry Shields et Harold Griffith. Bien que, dans chaque cas, la récompense est accordée pour services insignes au cours de leur carrière professionnelle, il est indubitable que le choix aurait été le même, s'il avait été basé sur l'amitié et l'estime personnelles que ces trois hommes commandent dans les cœurs des anesthésistes du Canada.

THE CANADIAN ANAESTHETISTS' SOCIETY MEDAL

LA MEDAILLE DE LA SOCIETE CANADIENNE
DES ANESTHESISTES

DR. WESLEY BOURNE

Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Medal
1962

DR. BOURNE was born in St. Philip, Barbados, British West Indies, in 1886. He was graduated from McGill University in 1911 with the degrees of M.D., C.M., and interned at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, from 1911 to 1914. He was granted the degree of Master of Science by McGill University in 1924.

Dr. Bourne served as a Captain in the Canadian Army Medical Corps from 1914 to 1919 and returned to the R.C.A.M.C. as Advisor in Anaesthesia from 1940 to 1944, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1913 Dr. Bourne joined the Department of Pharmacology of McGill University as a Demonstrator, commencing a long and fruitful association with that department. This association terminated only in 1945, when he was promoted to Assistant Professor and became the first Chairman of the Department of Anaesthesia at McGill. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1948 and Professor in 1949. Dr. Bourne retired in 1951 and was honoured by his University on his appointment as Emeritus Professor of Anaesthesia in 1954.

During a long and distinguished career Dr. Bourne combined the clinical practice and teaching of Anaesthesia with the investigation of the problems of Anaesthesia in the laboratory, in a day when such a dual role was a rarity indeed.

His many valuable contributions to the literature are not inconsiderably enhanced by a brilliant command of language. His great gifts as an orator made him an outstanding teacher.

The importance of Dr. Bourne's contributions to the specialty of anaesthesia have received international recognition in the important posts which he has filled, and in the honours which have been bestowed upon him. He was awarded the Henry Hill Hickman Medal by the Royal Society of Medicine in 1935. He has served as President of The Section of Anaesthesia Canadian Medical Association, The International Anesthesia Research Society, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and as Vice-President of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. He represented the Anaesthetists of the United States and Canada at the celebration of the Centenary of Anaesthesia in Great Britain in 1946. In 1952-53 he was Conseiller technique du Centre d'Anesthesiologie de Paris and Special Consultant to the French Government to aid in the establishment of anaesthesia training centres in France.

Dr. Bourne, more than any other, through his personal charm, professional stature, and great gift for friendship has been largely responsible for the welding together of the French-speaking and English-speaking anaesthetists of Canada into one cohesive body, which will long stand as a monument to his genius.

DR. HARRY JAMES SHIELDS

Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Medal
1962

DR. SHIELDS was born in Toronto in 1887. He graduated from the University of Toronto with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1909, and as Bachelor of Medicine (M.B.) in 1911. After an internship in New York City, he entered General Practice in the City of Toronto in 1914. In 1915 he was appointed to the Department of Anaesthesia of the Toronto General Hospital.

From 1915 to 1919 Dr. Shields was Chief Anaesthetist to No. 4 Canadian General Hospital, serving in Salonika and the United Kingdom. He was awarded the Serbian Order of St. Sava in 1916 for services to King Peter of Serbia.

In 1920 Dr. Shields resumed the full-time practice of Anaesthesia in Toronto, and was appointed Demonstrator in Anaesthesia at the University of Toronto. In 1935 he succeeded the late Dr. Samuel Johnston as head of the Department of Anaesthesia at that University, a post which he filled with distinction until 1952.

Dr. Shields was responsible for the first establishment of a Residency for training in Anaesthesia in the University of Toronto, in 1935, at the Toronto General Hospital, and was responsible for the development of a post-graduate programme in the University which trained a whole generation of anaesthetists, who are today serving the specialty with distinction both in Canada and abroad,

Through his preceptorship and teaching, in his writings, and in his example as a practitioner of the specialty of anaesthesia, Dr. Shields has made an important contribution to the development of anaesthesia as a specialty. He has served as President of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society, and as First Vice-President of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He has been honoured in his own University by the endowment of an annual Lecture bearing his name.

DR. HAROLD RANDALL GRIFFITH

Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Medal
1962

DR. GRIFFITH was born in Montreal in 1894. He graduated from McGill University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1914. As a first year medical student he enlisted in No. 6 Canadian Field Ambulance, with which unit he served until 1917. During this period he was promoted to Sergeant, and was awarded the Military Medal for Valour in the field. In 1917 he was transferred to the Royal Navy Medical Service in the rank of Surgeon-Sub-Lieutenant. Returning to McGill University in 1918 he was graduated with the degrees M.D., CM., in 1922. In 1923 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Griffith interned at the Homeopathic Hospital of Montreal (now Queen Elizabeth Hospital) and in 1923 became Anaesthetist-in-Chief at that institution. He assumed the additional responsibilities of Medical Superintendent of the hospital in 1936.

Dr. Griffith was one of the pioneers in the use of ethylene and cyclopropane as anaesthetic agents and contributed significantly to the early reports of their clinical application. His description of the use of curare in anaesthesia published in 1942 has been responsible for the greatest revolution in anaesthetic practice since the demonstration of the anaesthetic properties of ether.

The contributions of Dr. Griffith to the specialty of anaesthesia in organization, administration, and teaching have been no less significant than his clinical contributions. He was consultant in anaesthesia to the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1944 to 1946. He was associated with Dr. Wesley Bourne in the organization of the Department of Anaesthesia at McGill University, and succeeded Dr. Bourne as Professor and Chairman of that Department in 1951. He was appointed Emeritus Professor on his retirement in 1957.

Dr. Griffith's initiative was responsible for the organization of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists. He was chairman of the organizing committee and became the first President of the Federation at its founding in 1955. He was honoured by the title of "Founder President" at the assembly of the Federation in 1960.

Dr. Griffith has been honoured by the Feltrinelli Prize in Medicine of the Academia du Lincei of Rome (1954), the Henry Hill Hickman Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine (1956), and by Honorary Fellowship in many learned societies. He has served with distinction as President of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society and the International Anaesthesia Research Society, and as Vice-President of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.