

OBITUARY

DR. JOHN MURRAY GROWSE

DR. JOHN MURRAY GROWSE, affectionately known to his friends and colleagues as "Mickey", died suddenly on December 31, 1976, in his 70th year. Born on September 26, 1907, in England in the County of Kent, he came to Canada as a boy and grew up in Niagara Falls. He graduated in Medicine from Queen's University in 1932; interned at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, Ontario, and then set up a General Practice in South London. During the war he joined the R.C.A.F. and was in due course promoted to Wing Commander. While on duty in England in 1942 he met his wife Margaret (Peg Hanrahan), who was also in the Service; theirs was a notably felicitous marriage with six surviving children.

Returning to London, Ontario, after the war, he devoted himself increasingly to the practice of anaesthesia and became a certified specialist at the time of recognition of a specialty of Anaesthesia by the Royal College. He was appointed as the first Chief of Anaesthesia at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ontario, in 1956 and held this position until 1967; he also was a founding member of Anaesthesia Associates of London.

Mickey Growse was highly respected as a competent anaesthetist and was able to build over the years a good Anaesthesia Department devoted to excellent care and technical progress at St. Joseph's Hospital. His friends knew him as an energetic man who had a good sense of humour and was a good companion. He liked to golf and was a noted curler who made his mark at Bonspiels of the O.M.A.

Beginning in 1962 he suffered a series of severe heart attacks from which he rebounded in time with amazing fortitude. He continued his practice after his official retirement in 1972 on a part-time basis and worked every day until he suffered a cardiac arrest on the day before Good Friday 1976 while attending Mass. Two firemen, trained in resuscitation in his department were fortuitously present and able to resuscitate him. Although his subsequent recovery was insufficient to allow his return to work, he was able to enjoy many happy hours with his family and his friends.

He lived as a devout Catholic and exemplary anaesthetist and physician, a thoughtful friend and trusted colleague. His wife Margaret, six children and six grandchildren and many friends will miss him.