J. L. LOVIBOND

John Locke Lovibond died suddenly on May 4, 1954, his forty-seventh birthday.

Educated at Oundle School and Cambridge, he entered the Middlesex Hospital as Nomination Scholar in 1929, and qualified in 1932. As a student, he captained the rugger XV, and attained celebrity as a cartoonist in the Journal. After qualification, he spent the next seven years in post-graduate training, holding resident appointments at the Middlesex, Westminster, and Brompton Hospitals, including a spell in the Courtauld Research Wards at the Middlesex. In 1935, his interest turned towards cardiology, and he was awarded a whole-time grant by the Medical Research Council to work in the Cardiographic Department, as it was then called, at the Middlesex. His main project was an investigation of hydrothorax in heart failure, and this work which was incorporated in his Cambridge M.D. thesis was later published in this Journal (1941). He also was interested in chest leads and, with Arthur Willcox, he wrote one of the earliest papers on the subject to be published in this country. In 1937, he was appointed Medical Registrar at Middlesex and, while holding this post, he became Assistant Physician to the King George Hospital, Ilford.

In 1939, at the age of thirty-two, Jock Lovibond had almost completed his training as a physician and, to all his friends, he appeared to be on the threshold of a brilliant career in medicine. In respect of the variety and duration of his training, he had few rivals amongst his contemporaries, and his reputation at the Middlesex stood second to none. He had already accomplished some promising clinical research in cardiology in recognition of which he was elected an associate member of the Cardiac Society in 1939.

All seemed set fair for an appointment to a teaching hospital when war broke out. Already a Territorial Officer, and with army blood in his veins, Jock left at once to join his unit and was soon in France where he became medical specialist to a Casualty Clearing Station. He escaped at Dunkirk after a long and arduous trek along the beaches in the course of which he refused to jettison his British warm to which he was much attached. I well recall encountering him at Aldershot, on his return, and though bereft of all his belongings and walking painfully owing to sore feet, he was nevertheless impeccably clad, and debonair and cheerful as usual. After this, he served in Ceylon and Burma, first as Officer i/c Medical Division, then as Officer Commanding 35 B.G.H., and later 38 B.G.H. At the end of the war he was Consulting Physician to the 12th Army, S.E.A.C.

On returning from the war at the age of thirty-eight, with the rank of colonel, Lovibond found his prospects in civil life far less rosy than they had been when he departed six years before. At his age, time was against him and much as he would have liked to rehabilitate himself in cardiology, he was compelled to seek a consultant post without delay. For every hospital appointment he had to compete with a host of applicants released from the Services and E.M.S., few of whom would have been serious rivals before the War, and for a time his luck seemed out. He narrowly missed several appointments, but he never became discouraged and, in 1948, his friends rejoiced when he succeeded at Westminster. Though his devotion to cardiology had never waned, he was an accomplished general physician and an excellent teacher, so that he was soon pulling his weight there in general medicine. He was able to keep in touch with cardiology at the London Chest Hospital where he was actively interested in the problems of cardiac surgery. He was elected a full member of the Cardiac Society in 1947, and served on the Council from 1949 to 1953. He gave valuable help to the Editors of the Journal by taking charge of the abstracting.

Jock was a good mixer who enjoyed the company of his fellow men and had friends everywhere. He was equally at home in hospital, in the officers' mess, at his club, and on the hunting field. Physical fitness was part of his creed and he was a fine rider who hunted regularly and rode in point-to-point races.

The illustration shows him riding in the hunt members race of the Surrey Union Foxhounds in 1952 on his own horse and, only a few weeks before his death, he rode to second place in this

JOHN LOCKE LOVIBOND

race. In spite of his life in London and his enthusiasm for his work, he was still at times a countryman at heart, and loved his riding and his Northumbrian hills and moors.

No one ever saw Jock seriously out of temper which indeed he would have regarded as unbecoming to an officer and a gentleman. If the War dealt hardly with his career for a time he never complained, for not to have served throughout would have been unthinkable to him. He led a full life and enjoyed every moment of it. Beneath his genial manner and social graces, there were qualities

such as discipline and a rigid sense of duty, that were often unsuspected by those who did not know him well.

In his hospital work he was invariably punctual, and extremely painstaking and liked to keep meticulous records, often embellished with most artistic diagrams. In the Department of Cardiology at the Middlesex, his gay spirit enlivened all our labours and work never seemed tedious when he was around. Nevertheless, he was a most diligent man, endowed with a great capacity for work, who invariably completed anything he undertook on time. He was in his usual good form at the last meeting of the Cardiac Society at Cambridge, and continued in full health and vigour up to the time of his death. He married, in December, 1952, Mrs. Mary Carew-Jones, to whom our deep sympathy goes out in her tragic loss.

D. EVAN BEDFORD