Obituary

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Arthur Morgan Jones

Dr Arthur Morgan Jones died on 3 January 1979 in the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

A native of Glamorgan, Arthur Morgan Jones was educated in Bangor, North Wales, and entered the University of Manchester as a Dalton Scholar in physiology in 1929. He took a first class honours degree in physiology in 1934 and followed this with an MSc in 1935. He graduated MB ChB with honours in 1938. He took the membership of the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1942 and was elected to the fellowship in 1948.

Morgan Jones' undergraduate career was distinguished by prizes and scholarships in physiology, medicine, and pharmacology. After graduation he joined the late Professor Bramwell's unit as house physician thus beginning what was to be a long and fruitful partnership. After a period in research in the University of Cambridge he returned to be RMO at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and his success in this post is still legendary. After this his appointment as consultant physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1948 was assured. In 1946-47 he worked in the United States holding first of all a Leverhulme Research Scholarship from the Royal College of Physicians and later a Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship. This work was mainly in Cleveland in Harold Feil's department and it was a period which he enjoyed very much. He remained thereafter a frequent visitor to the United States. He succeeded Professor Bramwell as director of the Department of Cardiology at the Manchester Royal Infirmary on the latter's retirement in 1954, and he remained director until his own retirement in 1971. He was reader in cardiology in the University of Manchester and president of the Manchester Medical Society in
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1969-70. He was an enthusiastic member of the British Cardiac Society, serving on Council in 1954-58 and again in 1959-60. He was a founder member of Council of the British Heart Foundation and also on the Research Committee of the International Society of Cardiology in 1961-66.

Morgan Jones’ influence on cardiology in Manchester was profound and it was his collaboration with the late Professor Bramwell which led to the founding of the University Department of Cardiology at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. During the period 1936-47 he worked in basic physiology with the late Professor Walter Schlapp and also published several papers on clinical cardiology with Bramwell and with F. A. Langley. It was during this period that he first began to develop an interest in heart disease in pregnancy, his first paper on this topic being published in the Postgraduate Medical Journal in 1944. While in the United States he worked principally on the effect of posture on normal and abnormal cardiograms. Subsequently he developed and extended his interest in heart disease and pregnancy, publishing his classic book on the subject in 1951. In the 1950’s he became increasingly interested in coronary disease and with Snow and Daber he was the first to show that sudden death was frequently not associated with demonstrable occlusion or infarction, a statement then which flouted current thinking but now has been thoroughly vindicated. His contributions to the field of coronary disease were recognised when he was invited to give the Strickland Goodall Memorial Lecture in 1969.

In addition to his original work he also found time to edit Progress in Cardiology and later Modern Trends in Cardiology, both successful books.

Although Morgan Jones’ contribution to medicine and cardiology will not be forgotten quickly, he will be remembered best as a highly valued friend and colleague. In character he was kind, unpretentious, and totally honest. Those of us who worked with him and enjoyed his friendship were privileged indeed. He was not married.

E. Geoffrey Wade
Arthur Morgan Jones.

E G Wade

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