George Edgar Septimus Ward 1888–1969

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Members of the British Cardiac Society and Middlesex men have been saddened at the loss on March 21, 1969, of George Ward, a well-loved and respected figure in British cardiology. The seventh son of the late Dr. William J. C. Ward, he was educated at Epsom College and the Middlesex Hospital where he was house physician to Sir James Kingston Fowler and later in 1914 Medical Registrar. In the First World War, Ward served in the Royal Navy as temporary Surgeon-Lieutenant at Hasler; thus began his close association with the R.N., and he subsequently became Honorary Cardiologist to the Association of Retired Naval Officers. Ward's career as a Consultant Cardiologist began with his election to the honorary staff of the Middlesex Hospital in 1918, and he was at the same time given

charge of the new Electrocardiographic Department. Electrocardiographs in those early days were uncertain and capricious, and the processes of recording were elaborate and time consuming, calling for infinite patience and perseverance. Ward had both of these qualities, so that he soon developed an efficient service which was the forerunner of the present department, with all its diversity of techniques.

None can recall George Ward without remembering the friendliness and warmth of his personality. In the wards and in his relations with students and his colleagues he showed unvarying thoughtfulness and unselfishness, and these characteristics endeared him to the many patients, in hospital and private practice alike, who sought his help. Ward

was tall, slender, and elegant; straight in figure and straight in all his dealings, his integrity shone through his genial smile.

In addition to his speciality of cardiology Ward maintained an interest in clinical medicine which he taught clearly and impressively to many generations of students at the Middlesex. Bedside diagnosis was founded on the time-honoured basis of symptoms and signs while laboratory methods and other techniques were applied only at the rightful stage. With this capacity for instruction, it was natural that Ward should become an expert examiner for degrees at London University and for diplomas of the Royal College of Physicians, and many co-examiners learned much from his methods.

Ward was not content to forget about Middlesex men when they qualified or left the House; he followed their careers with keen interest. As Secretary of the Middlesex Hospital Club for many years this aim was furthered so that, even years

after his retirement from the Honorary Staff, he possessed a remarkable knowledge of personalities in cardiology, in general practice, and in his Alma Mater in Mortimer Street.

Ward married in 1918 Una, a daughter of Dr. S. Gourlay, and they had one daughter. His health began to fail after the death of Mrs. Ward in 1966. After that time he lived with his devoted daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Patrick Almond, who recollects that Ward's greatest joy latterly was in cricket which he watched on television, especially Test matches. Always an avid follower of this sport he had a keen appreciation of the finer points of the game. In the closing period of his life, as he entered his 81st year, Ward's memories ranged over his school days at Epsom, his Naval service in the First War, and his generations of Middlesex students and graduates who became his life-long friends.

K. SHIRLEY SMITH