SIR LIONEL WHITBY
1895–1956

Sir Lionel Ernest Howard Whitby, G.V.O., M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge since 1945, died on November 24th, 1956, following a short severe illness, at the age of 61 years, of carcinoma of the lung. During distinguished military service in France and the Balkans in the war of 1914-1918, a wound necessitated the amputation of a leg. After the war he studied medicine at Cambridge and at the Middlesex Hospital, London, qualifying in 1923. He became Assistant Pathologist at Middlesex Hospital almost immediately afterwards and devoted much of his time to haematological and bacteriological work, which led to the introduction of sulphapyridine and to much chemotherapeutic study. In 1929 he was one of the doctors called in by Lord Dawson of Penn to advise on the illness of King George V. During the 1939-1945 war he directed the Blood Supply Depot of the Army at Bristol, as Consulting Physician, and he attended Sir Winston Churchill during his illnesses in 1943 and 1944.

His many publications include a textbook of medical bacteriology and, jointly with C.J. C. Britton, the well known «Disorders of the Blood». He was a member of many medical and other committees and his wise counsel was welcome everywhere. He was President of the British Medical Association in 1948, of the International Society of Haematology in 1950 during the Congress at Cambridge, of the International Society of Clinical Pathology and the Association of Clinical Pathologists in 1951, of the First World Conference on Medical Education in 1953, and of the Haemophilia Society since 1954. He was adviser on the Boards of several journals. His interests were not only bacteriological or haematological, but above all human, and he was always ready to help others and particularly the physically handicapped.

During his student days and afterwards he collected many prizes, medals and scholarships, and his academic record was one of the most brilliant amongst the medical men of his generation. His calmness and judgement and his quiet light humour together with his exquisite English delivered with beautiful diction made him a fine lecturer and outstanding chairman.

Sir Lionel Whitby will long be remembered as a really outstanding haematologist and a great man, whose presence will be sorely missed by many of his friends, colleagues and patients, students and admirers.

E. Meumark, London.