

OBITUARY



DR. M. DIGBY LEIGH

DR. M. DIGBY LEIGH, born in Jersey, Channel Islands, September 23, 1904, died September 5, 1975 in Palm Springs, Calif. His early life and schooling was in British Columbia, his medical education at McGill University, Montreal, from which he graduated in 1932. One year of internship and one of general surgery training were followed by a year of general practice in Montreal. His anaesthesia residency with Dr. Ralph Waters, from 1935 to 1938, preceded his return to Montreal as Director of Anaesthesia, Children's Memorial Hospital. With Dr. Wesley Bourne and Dr. Harold Griffith, he was founder of the Montreal College of Anaesthesia, with a three-year course for residency training, in 1939; this was dissolved when the Dept. of Anaesthesia of McGill University was formed. He was consultant in Anaesthesia to the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II, and Professor of Anaesthesia, McGill University until 1947, when he became Director of Anaesthesia, Vancouver General Hospital. In 1954, Dr. Leigh moved to Los Angeles as Director of Anesthesiology, Children's Hospital, and Professor of Anesthesiology, University of Southern California which he held until his retirement in 1970.

Dr. Leigh was certified in Anaesthesia by the Royal College of Physicians, Canada, and by the American Board of Anesthesiology. He was the chief author of two editions of *Pediatric Anesthesia*, 1948 and 1960, and of numerous articles. He invented several pieces of anesthetic equipment to enable various adult agents and technics to be used in children; two of these were the non-rebreathing valve and the infant circle filter. He was one of the founders of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. He instituted weekly anaesthesia meetings in the Ciba Building in Montreal, on "Deaths and Complications in Anaesthesia," which were well attended by English- and French-speaking anaesthetists alike. His students and associates knew him as a superb teacher and shrewd clinician, an inspiring and demanding "Chief" to be respected and admired.

Dr. Leigh is survived by his wife, Sonya; two sons, John and Digby R., Jr.; three daughters, Andrea, Jane and Donna, and by his sister, Mrs. Freda Grelish.