

## Obituaries

editor of *Medical History*), who poached him from the Royal Society of Medicine, and for a generation of medical historians from the 1940s to the 1960s he was the Library's public face as Supervisor of the Reading Room. Latterly he was in charge of the photographic service and there too he built up a satisfied clientele.

Sidney caught only the tail-end of the Library's antediluvian period at Willesden but he was a key figure in the next phase, lasting until the early 1960s, when the Library struggled on a shoe-string to develop a role. For several years he was actually third in the hierarchy after Bishop and Noël Poynter, his deputy and successor; later he would comment sardonically on the number of professionals needed to do what he had once done single-handed.

Besides his service to readers, Sidney was the valued factotum of Bishop and Poynter and was much in demand, in his spare time, for reference-checking and bibliographical searches. He contributed to successive editions of *Garrison-Morton*. After Bishop's untimely death he was proud that his bibliography of his writings was accepted for *Medical History* and regarded the appearance of his name in *Current work* as the ultimate accolade.

John Symons

### GWENETH WHITTERIDGE (1910–1993)

Few scholars can have identified themselves so firmly with an author as did Gweneth Whitteridge with William Harvey. Although she was trained in medieval French studies and in palaeography, it was her appointment in 1935 as archivist (to Sir D'Arcy Power) at St Bartholomew's hospital, London, and her marriage to a future professor of physiology at Edinburgh and Oxford, that set her on her career as a Harveian. Apart from a brief history of Bart's (1961), her energies were devoted to editing and translating Harvey's works: *On local animal motion* (1959); the *Anatomical lectures* (1964); *On the circulation of the blood* (1976); and *On generation* (1981). A new translation of his *Letters on the circulation and the lacteal veins* is in press. She provided a valuable *Bibliography* of Harvey's writings (1989, with Christine English), and summed up her interpretation of Harvey in *William Harvey and the circulation of the blood* (1971). She defended her views in vigorous controversy with Walter Pagel and Jerome Bylebyl, whose preference for intellectual contextualisation she felt diminished Harvey's importance as a physiologist. Even if her later translations did not meet with total acclaim, her earlier versions of *On motion* and the *Anatomical lectures* performed a singular service by making available texts existing only in manuscript or in rare copies.

She was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and served from 1983 to 1985 as President of the Historical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, of which she was also an Honorary Fellow.

Vivian Nutton

### SIR WILLIAM PATON (1917–1993)

We regret to announce the death of Sir William Paton on 17 October 1993. An obituary will appear in the April 1994 issue of *Medical History*.

### CHARLES HOLWELL TALBOT (1906–1993)

We regret to announce the death of Dr Charles Talbot on 11 September 1993. An obituary will appear in the April 1994 issue of *Medical History*.