

OBITUARIES

THE LEONARD WOOD MEMORIAL

(American Leprosy Foundation)

Medical Department, 1832 M St., N.W.

Washington 6, D.C. has kindly supplied the following information.

JAMES ANGUS DOULL, M.D.

James Angus Doull, M.D., Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy and internationally known for his work in public health died 6th April 1963 at the age of 73 in Baltimore, where he had been a patient since early February.

He was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, on 8th September 1889. His academic degrees were B.A. (1911) and M.D., C.M. (1914) from Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., D.P.H. (1919) from Cambridge University (England), and DR. P.H. (1921) from Johns Hopkins University.

Throughout World War I Dr. Doull served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, attaining the rank of major. Immediately after the war he was an intern at Brompton Hospital, London, and then at Willard Parker Hospital, New York City. He entered Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health as a Rockefeller Fellow in 1920, became associate in epidemiology in 1921, and subsequently served as associate professor from 1924 until 1930. For nearly a decade while in Baltimore, he conducted a comprehensive study of the epidemiology of diphtheria. Following this work he became director of the John J. Abel Fund for Research on the Common Cold at Johns Hopkins.

For fifteen years, beginning in 1930, Dr. Doull was the Elizabeth Severance Prentiss professor of Hygiene and Public Health at the School of Medicine, Western Reserve University, Cleveland. During this period, at the request of the then Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, Dr. Thomas Parran, Dr. Doull conducted surveys on public health in various parts of the world.

While serving Western Reserve University, Dr. Doull had three important governmental assignments related to World War II. The first was a special mission to the Pacific for the Lend-Lease Administration to help Australia and New Zealand obtain urgently needed medical supplies. The second was to England for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration as a member of an international committee convened in London to draft new sanitary conventions for maritime and aerial commerce regulations for the medical control of displaced persons in Europe. The third was a trip to Europe to make preliminary arrangements for the proposed international health organization.

Dr. Doull resigned from Western Reserve University in 1946 to join the Regular Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, from which he retired with rank of Medical Director in 1953.

Dr. Doull served with the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organizations in San Francisco in 1945, which created the United Nations. He assisted in drawing up plans for the World Health Organization at the International Health Conference and was the representative of the United States, International Office of Public Health, in Paris 1946. He was deeply interested in the World Health Organization which he continued to serve as a consultant and member of the leprosy panel.

Other noteworthy services for the United States performed by Dr. Doull in the field of international health include his work with the Pan American Sanitary Organization in which he served as a delegate and as a member of the Directing Council. He contributed significantly to the International Leprosy Congresses in Cairo (1938), Havana (1948), Madrid (1953), and Tokyo (1958).

In 1948, Dr. Doull (on leave from the U.S. Public Health Service) assumed the position of Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy. He was aware of the importance of establishing precise methods to evaluate the usefulness of new drugs in the treatment of leprosy. As a result of his guidance the first scientific method for determining the effectiveness of chemotherapy in leprosy was evolved. The procedure required that the patients treated be compared with a similar group that were not treated. This was carried out by what is known as the double-blind method, wherein neither patients nor doctors are aware of the specific agent used. Thus, personal prejudices are eliminated.

During the fifteen years of his medical directorship, numerous projects pertaining to the treatment, diagnosis, and epidemiology of leprosy have been carried out in the Philippines, Japan and South Africa, and the potential for basic research by the Leonard Wood Memorial established a unit for research in leprosy at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of Johns Hopkins University. The research facilities of the Memorial in Cebu, Philippines, have recently expanded. At the present time, due to Dr. Doull's leadership it is likely that more research in leprosy is being conducted by scientists employed by the Leonard Wood Memorial than by any similar group in the world.

Among his numerous duties as Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial he served as consultant on leprosy for the Clinical Centre, National Institutes of Health, specifically assigned to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The Surgeon General of the U.S. Army in 1954 called upon Dr. Doull to make a comprehensive survey of leprosy in the Ryukyus Islands. Recommendations which resulted from the detailed study

have been of extreme importance in protecting American military and civilian personnel in Okinawa and improving the health of the native population.

Indicative of Dr. Doull's wide interest in public health and infectious diseases other than leprosy are his many publications on the epidemiologic aspects of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, typhoid fever and tuberculosis.

Dr. Doull was the recipient of many awards, including the Military Cross, Great Britain; Croix de Guerre, France; the medal of Chevalier, Ordre de Sante Publique, France; and Commander, Military and Sovereign Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem. He was elected an honorary member of the Belgian Society of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp; Honorary Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute, London; a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London, and an honorary Fellow of the Argentine Society of Leprology. He was a member of numerous medical and scientific organisations, including the American Epidemiological Society, which he served two terms as president; the American Public Health Association, of which he was a member of the governing council and the executive board; the Pasteur Club of Cleveland, Sigma Xi, Alpha Omega Alpha, and Delta Omega. Dr. Doull was the last of the original incorporators of the Cleveland Health Museum founded in 1936. He was a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington.

Dr. Doull became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1931. He is survived by his wife, Ethel Mary (MacQuarrie) Doull of the family home, 4202 25th St. North, Arlington, Virginia; a son, Dr. James A. Doull, Jr. of Cleveland; a daughter, Dorothy (Mrs. Richard M. Miller) of West Hartford, Conn. and six grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers, the Rt. Hon. Justice Doull of Halifax, N.S., and G. Roy Doull of Moncton, N.B. and a sister, Mrs. Wm. B. MacDonald of Winnipeg, Canada.

Funeral services were held at Fort Myer Chapel, Wednesday, 10th April, with burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

(Dr. James Doull greatly respected and admired BELRA. When in London he never failed to call on the Medical Secretary, Dr. J. Ross Innes, and his generous and always valuable advice was always sought and freely given. His singleminded love and service to the cause of leprosy patients was ever evident. His loss is personally felt by all patients and all leprologists of the world. *Editor.*)