

Obituary Notice

NEIL DUNCAN FRASER, 1900-1969

Neil Duncan Fraser, M.B., CH.B., D.T.M. and H., died in hospital at Perth, Scotland, on Sunday, 3 August, 1969, after suffering a coronary infarction. The news of his passing will be received with regret in each of the several areas in which he served so faithfully.

His interest in leprosy began in 1924 when he was appointed to the Presbyterian Hospital in Swatow, South-west China, by the English Presbyterian Mission. In 1928, Dr. Fraser accepted responsibility for the control and planning, first of the hospital and then of the medical missionary work, of the whole Swatow region. One of his colleagues has said that Dr. Fraser was "rightly dissatisfied until he had obtained better conditions under which modern methods could be practised and technical efficiency attained".

With the help from The Leprosy Mission, Neil Fraser developed a number of village clinics for the treatment of leprosy. Using methods of treatment recommended by Dr. H. W. Wade of the Culon Leprosy Colony, he obtained very satisfactory results and soon became a recognized authority on the disease.

When war conditions made work in Japanese-occupied China impossible, Dr. Fraser served in Hong Kong and, in 1946, with the goodwill of the English Presbyterian Mission, joined the staff of The Mission to Lepers as part-time Secretary for China and Hong Kong. Four years later he began to give his whole time to leprosy. In this capacity he accepted responsibility for The Mission to Lepers' Hong Kong leprosy venture, and saw it develop from small beginnings at Sandy Bay into the full-scale treatment and research centre on Hay Ling Chau (The Isle of Happy Healing) which it has now become.

Dr. Fraser had the full confidence of Hong Kong's foremost leaders, working happily with

successive Governors, University chiefs and the principals of the Colony's commercial and business houses. Through the formation of the Hong Kong Auxiliary of the Mission and the Marianne Reichl Aid to Lepers Group, he ensured the continuity of interest which was to make the Isle of Happy Healing largely self-supporting.

In 1960, at the request of the Mission Council, Dr. Fraser joined the Headquarters' staff in London of The Mission to Lepers as its Medical Secretary, a post which took him on many extensive tours of investigation and demonstration. His period as Medical Secretary was marked by advances in medicine, surgery, and rehabilitation and he was one of the strongest advocates in favour of the Mission's change of name to The Leprosy Mission. His long experience and wide knowledge of leprosy care and leprosy control led Mission Boards and Government Departments to seek his help and advice, and both were freely given.

Even leprosy, which demanded so large a proportion of his time, could not fill his days or satisfy his enthusiasm and, through the years, he found relaxation and interest in archaeological investigation which has left public galleries and private collectors enriched by specimens which he discovered in the Far East.

Since he retired to Scotland in 1966, Dr. and Mrs. Fraser have lived at Pitlochry in Perthshire, to the encouragement of the Scottish Auxiliary of The Leprosy Mission and other good causes, all of which found Dr. Fraser ever willing to give his services. For many years he was a valued member of the Medical Committee of LEPROA.

The sympathy of his many friends and colleagues goes out to his widow, who so ably supported him in all his endeavours, and to his daughter and two sons.

WALTER FANCUTT