

Obituary

ALEXANDER DEWAR DUFF, MB, ChB
1897–1977

The recent death of Dr Duff should not go unnoticed by *Leprosy Review*, for without his timely help during a critical period the continued publication of this journal would have been in jeopardy. After the sudden passing of Dr Ross Innes in 1968, the Executive Committee of LEPROA requested its Medical Secretary to assume the duties of Chairman of the Editorial Board of *Leprosy Review*. This task would have been impossibly difficult without the expert subeditorial assistance of Dr Duff.

Alexander Dewar Duff was born on 7 May 1897. He qualified in medicine from Aberdeen in 1927, and thought to become a general practitioner. Because of a bad stammer, he soon gave up this idea and pursued an early linguistic bent, and studied in Lausanne and Vienna. During the Second World War, he put to good use his excellent knowledge of French and German, translating medical and scientific texts, and devising, translating and applying tests for staff selection of the Free French forces.

“Sandy” Duff really came into his own in the years following the war, when he was appointed Assistant Editor of the *British Medical Bulletin* and then held a similar position in regard to the *Abstracts of World Medicine*. When ordinary mortals would have welcomed a real retirement, “Sandy” Duff responded with youthful zest to the invitation to undertake the unspectacular but highly important duties of subeditor of *Leprosy Review*. For 5 years he carried out these tasks. Of his careful attention to detail, his literary flair, his editorial competence, and his rapid grasp of the essential concepts and vocabulary of the science of leprosy, I cannot speak too highly.

He was there when he was needed, and we are grateful.

S. G. BROWNE