

## Obituary

**DR STANLEY G. BROWNE**  
CMG, OBE, MD, FRCS, FRCP, DTM  
1907–1986

Dr S G Browne, a world authority on leprosy and a lifelong medical missionary, died suddenly on 29 January. He was 78.

Stanley George Browne was born in England on 8 December 1907 and studied medicine at King's College Hospital, graduating MB, BS with honours in 1933; by 1935 he had gained both the FRCS and the MRCP. He then served for 23 years with the Baptist Missionary Society at Yakusu in the Belgian Congo (now Zaire) from 1936 to 1959. He was in charge of an area of 10,000 square miles, in which he developed from scratch a programme of comprehensive community care based on 18 health centres and 36 treatment centres. This pioneering programme was an outstanding achievement and became a model in Africa for the control of endemic diseases.

By 1959, when Stanley left the Congo, his achievements in the control and treatment of tropical diseases were respected and well known, particularly because of his prolific publications and his flair for clear writing in both English and French. Already his special interest in and devotion to the detection and treatment of leprosy were apparent, and thus in 1959 he took over the directorship of the Leprosy Research Unit in Uzuakoli, eastern Nigeria, as well as becoming senior specialist leprologist to the government of Nigeria. From then until 1966 the reputation and achievements of Uzuakoli under the dynamic leadership of Stanley were further enhanced, particularly in the unit's use of chemotherapy. The highlight of this programme stemmed from Stanley's pioneering studies on B663, one of the then newly synthesized riminophenazine compounds. From Stanley's carefully conducted pilot and extended trials in lepromatous leprosy B663 proved to be a powerful antileprosy drug and was also found to have anti-inflammatory activity. Thus the work on one of the three most effective antileprosy drugs, renamed clofazimine, was originally undertaken by Stanley.

After leaving Uzuakoli in 1966 Stanley was invited by Dr Robert Cochrane to take over the Leprosy Study Centre in London. This he accepted, and he continued as director until the centre was closed in 1980, thereby having a focal point for consultation, training, and histopathological research on leprosy. During these 14 years in London Stanley's skill in leprosy was used locally by many organizations—for example, by the Department of Health and Social Security as adviser in leprosy, as medical consultant to the Leprosy Mission International, as medical secretary to LEPRO, and as editor of *Leprosy Review*. In his travels he visited nearly 80 countries, and he was leprosy consultant to many of them. There is hardly an honour or appointment within the world of leprosy that was not Stanley's at some stage. A prolific author on leprosy, he made more than 500 contributions to scientific literature and journals.

Throughout, Stanley remained a dedicated and active Christian; he was president of the Baptist Union in 1980–1. He is survived by his wife, Mali, and three sons.—RJWR.

DJ writes: One of Stanley Browne's chief contributions was the discovery of the larval stage of the vector of *Onchocerca volvulus*, which led to the control of river blindness over a wide area. He later founded a leprosarium at Yalisombo in which he tested the earliest supplies of diasone. His teaching and organizing abilities promoted Yakusu into being the second teaching hospital in the Congo. As

a director, École Agrée d'Infirmiers et d'Aides Accoucheurs, he trained several infirmiers and aids to serve 10,000 square miles in 18 community care units and 36 treatment centres. He received honours twice from the Queen and on four occasions from the king of the Belgians. He was one of those dynamos whose powers of concentration permit them never to waste a minute. This could be a little daunting to some. But any real inquirer or anyone in need who made contact with him at once found a warm heart and an unusual determination to help. Former colleagues and all who were privileged to know him are left with an indelible impression of complete reliability both as a Christian and as a scientific doctor.

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