

## OBITUARY.

ALISON M. HUNTER, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Through the death of Dr. Alison Mary Hunter at the height of her career, a great and irreparable loss has been sustained, not only by the medical profession, but also by wide sections of the community which she served.

Her father died at the early age of 37 years, and her mother, a woman of outstanding character and capabilities, was left with the responsibility of rearing and educating three young children. She always managed to maintain a happy home atmosphere, which was remembered with joy and gratitude by Dr. Hunter till the last days of her life.

Alison, the youngest of the family, after completing her school education in Glasgow and in Germany, entered Glasgow University. Her studies there were interrupted by the first World War, when she served with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia. Returning to Glasgow, she graduated M.B., Ch.B., in 1918. She held resident surgical posts in Kilmarnock Royal Infirmary and in Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital. Thereafter she was for some years in general practice. She had always a special interest in Gynaecology and Obstetrics, and at this time gained valuable experience in Redlands Hospital for Women as Assistant to the late Dr. Alice J. McLaren, on whose retiral in 1932 Dr. Hunter became Chief Gynaecologist and Obstetrician to the Hospital. She succeeded Dr. McLaren also as Consulting Gynaecologist to Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital.

Dr. Hunter was appointed Gynaecological Surgeon to the Out-Patient Department of Glasgow Royal Infirmary in 1924, and some years later, after giving up general practice, she went to Germany for some months of post-graduate study. She was promoted Senior Assistant to the late Professor Hendry in the Royal Infirmary in 1936, and during and after his long illness was Acting Chief Surgeon from 1944 till 1946, when she was officially appointed Surgeon in Charge of Wards.

In the Royal Maternity Hospital, Dr. Hunter had for long held the post of Assistant to Dr. Hendry, but this position she gave up in 1937, owing to the pressure of her duties in the Royal Infirmary, in Redlands Hospital, and in a rapidly expanding consulting practice. During the second World War, she once more undertook work in the Maternity Hospital, where the shortage of staff was acute. This was in addition to the already almost overwhelming tax on her time and strength caused by the absence on war service of colleagues in the Royal Infirmary.



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Dr. Hunter was a Founder Member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and was elected a Fellow in 1939.

Outside her professional duties, she did much public work directed towards the welfare of women and children. As Chairman of the National Vigilance Society, she continued work in which her mother had already established a tradition. At the time of her death, she was treasurer of the Medical Women's Federation.

Throughout the months of her final illness, Dr. Hunter never ceased to take a lively interest in the world outside her sick-room, and many were the personal and professional problems brought by her friends and colleagues for the sure illumination of her keen intellect. Alison Hunter will long be remembered by her many patients and friends for her loyalty, her compassion, and her unfailing readiness to put self aside in rendering help when called upon at any hour of day or night. She loved children and animals and all weak or suffering creatures, and her gallantry during a life of almost incessant hard work, followed by a long and trying illness, will remain an inspiration to all who knew her.

E. McP.