MAJOR-GENERAL D. T. RICHARDSON,
C.B., M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
late Royal Army Medical Corps (Retd.)

DAVID TURNBULL RICHARDSON died on 14th September, 1957, at his home at Badachro in Ross-shire. He was born on 21st December, 1886, at North Berwick and was educated at Edinburgh University, where he graduated in 1910. He was commissioned as Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1912 and was posted to India in 1914. He subsequently served in the Aden Field Force, being awarded the M.C. at the end of the war.

He qualified as a specialist in hygiene after the war and took the D.P.H. in 1923. Then began his fruitful association with E. P. Cathcart, F.R.S., Regius Professor of Physiology in the University of Glasgow. With Cathcart and Captain (later Colonel) W. Campbell, R.A.M.C., he carried out important work on the economic load for the soldier, the results being reported in the *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps* in 1923. With the same collaborators, he published studies on muscle activity and the influence of speed on muscle efficiency (*Journal of Physiology*, 1923-24).

This work led to the investigation of the energy expenditure of the British soldier in India, which he carried out at Jubbulpore, again in conjunction with Campbell. Their Report was published in 1927 and brought a congratulatory letter from Sir William Horrocks, who wrote:

"I know I should have been very glad if such figures had been in existence in 1917, when our food supply was running short and Lloyd George's Cabinet made an attempt to cut down the issues to the soldier at home and in France."

Richardson served as Assistant Professor of Hygiene at the Royal Army Medical College from 1928 to 1932 and was one of the few officers to hold both this appointment and subsequently that of Professor. During this time he wrote the *B.R.C.S. Tropical Hygiene Manual*, which was published in 1932. In 1931 he had been awarded the Leishman Prize for his work in military hygiene. He was Assistant Director of Hygiene at the War Office from 1935 to 1938, and in the latter year became Professor of Hygiene.

The Second World War cut short his tenure as Professor and he was appointed D.D.H., G.H.Q., B.E.F., in 1939. In 1941 he became Director of Hygiene with the rank of Major-General and, in the same year, was made K.H.S. He was appointed C.B. in 1945 and, subsequently, Commander with star of the Royal Order of St. Olaf in Norway.

His tenure of the appointment of Director of Hygiene was exceptionally important and was notable for such major advances as the introduction of D.D.T. for service use and of mepacrine for the prophylaxis of malaria. In 1944 he wrote a long paper, "A New Life for the Soldier," which gave his views about what should be done for the soldier of the future. It must have been gratifying to him in his retirement to see fulfilled so much of what he advocated in this challenging paper.

Throughout his career he was a regular contributor to this Journal, which he served as assistant editor from July, 1935 to June, 1939. He had a talent for
sketching and some of his illustrations still adorn the section on plague in the Army Health Museum at the College; a later creation of his was "Noffy, the anopheline," in a cartoon dealing with the prevention of malaria.

Richardson was a direct and resolute character, a Scot, a lover of his country and the open-air life; he was a golfer, yachtsman, shot and fisherman. Characteristically, on his retirement in 1946 he made straight for the Highlands. Here he was in his element and only left his home on two or three occasions before his death. Here he made a beautiful and productive garden, rebuilt a ruined cottage and made a road to it. Here he fished and kept two boats tied up in readiness to the pier in front of the house. One who knew him writes:

"A fortunate visitor who timed his arrival well would be regaled with fried haddock or lobster straight from the sea, caught and maybe cooked by the general, this to be followed by strawberries picked fresh from the garden."

It is peculiarly sad that a man who knew so well what to do with his life should have his retirement cut short by death, and the sympathy of all who knew him must go out to his widow.

Brigadier P. J. L. Capon, Q.H.P., Director of Army Health, writes:

"It was with the greatest regret we learnt of the death of David Richardson. It was characteristic of him, but a genuine loss to his friends, that on retirement he should settle in a remote part of his beloved Scotland and busy himself with all the things he had wanted to do—the improvement of his house and garden, his fishing and the cultivation of his deep interest in natural history.

"To those of us who had the privilege of serving with him, his outstanding characteristics were his singleness of purpose, his supreme honesty and his vision, coloured with an impish humour which would appear at the most unexpected times. He held the appointment of Director of Hygiene from 1941 to 1945, seeing the years of endurance pass into the years of victory, and it was during the latter part of this period that the writer served under him. His devotion to his staff was intense, and only last year in a letter he referred to the pleasure it gave him to follow the careers of his 'boys'.

"Richardson was a man who had his own ideas and spoke his mind, but always courteously and with due regard to the views of others. He was always ready to listen and advise on any problems. He was the author or part author of many publications, but among his most remarkable was his 'A New Life for the Soldier,' written and typed in just over seventy-two hours and containing ideas which were then visionary but have since come to be accepted as part of the normal amenities of the soldier's life.

"One of his last projects was to write a history of certain of his forebears who served in the Army during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but it was his intense interest in anything pertaining to Scotland which filled his mind outside his work, a symbol of which was the 'Gaelic Grammar' he always kept on his desk.

"David Richardson has left us, but his memory will always be green to those who had the good fortune to work with him and his character cannot fail to be an inspiration to those who follow in his footsteps."
Retd.

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