SIR JOHN GOODWIN
K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Sir John Goodwin, Director-General of Army Medical Services from 1918-1923 and a Governor of Queensland, died on 29th September 1960 at the age of 89.

Thomas Herbert John Chapman Goodwin was born on the 24th May, 1871 at Kandy, the eldest son of Surgeon Major John Goodwin, who was then serving in Ceylon. He was sent to his family home at Highweek, Newton Abbot, Devon, and was educated at Newton College. He gained the English Conjoint qualification in 1892 from St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and was commissioned into the Army Medical Service the following year. At Netley he came third in his group and he soon distinguished himself as staff-surgeon to the Mohmand Field Force on the North-West Frontier of India; he was mentioned in despatches, and for gallantry at the battle of Shabkadar in the Tirah campaign, he was appointed to the Distinguished Service Order. In 1897 he married Lilian Isabel, daughter of James Ronaldson of Howick Grange, Northumberland. He was stationed at Quetta before the Great War and Sir Henry Holland recalls him as "a tremendous sportsman." It seems he used to race two horses, was a very fine shot, and "quite a wizard as a fisherman." He used to go to the Mission Hospital for practice in types of major surgery not available to him at the military hospital.

"I quite well remember on the first three occasions when he himself operated we had, as was usual, a short prayer before he operated, to which Goodwin made no comment. The next day I was going to operate myself, and I said: 'I hope you don't mind, old man, if I do it. I promised the relations I would.' Then I put up the same short prayer and saw a smile come over Goodwin's face. 'What is it?' I said. 'Oh nothing,' he replied, 'only I am so relieved that you pray when you yourself operate. I thought it was only when poor devils like me from outside did the job that you said God help them!'" 1

In the war of 1914-1918 he at first commanded No. 4 Field Ambulance which was attached to the Cavalry Division and took part in the retreat from Mons. He was then appointed A.D.M.S. of the 2nd Cavalry Division and went through both battles of Ypres and the fighting on the Somme and the Marne. He was three times mentioned in despatches and in 1915 was appointed C.M.G. He also commanded No. 14 General Hospital at Wimereux. In 1917 he was recommended by his friend Major-General O'Donnell in France to accompany Mr. Balfour's mission to the United States of America as representative of the Army Medical Department. In this capacity he greatly assisted co-operation between this country and the U.S.A., and when American doctors came to join the war he already had many friends among them.

In 1918 at the age of 46 he was appointed Deputy Director-General of the Army Medical Services and then succeeded Sir Alfred Keogh as Director-General. He was appointed C.B. for his services and in 1919 promoted K.C.B. He received widespread recognition for his ability and outstanding services. He was Honorary Surgeon to the King and an honorary Fellow of the Colleges of Surgeons of England, Edinburgh,

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Australasia and America, an honorary Freeman of the Society of Apothecaries of London, a Knight of Grace of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem and a Commander in the French Legion of Honour, the Belgian Order of Leopold and the Italian Order of the Crown. He was made an honorary D.Sc. by Oxford and an M.A. of Michigan University, and was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre and the American Distinguished Service Medal.

After five years as Director-General, Sir John retired, but in 1927 he started a fresh career, being appointed Governor of Queensland. From 1928 to 1932 he was (the first) Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Army Dental Corps and from 1932 to 1938 of the R.A.M.C. In 1932 on retiring from Queensland he was promoted K.C.M.G. Sir John is survived by Lady Goodwin; they had no children. His younger brother, Colonel W. R. P. Goodwin, once an assistant Director-General of the Army Medical Services, died in 1958.

The picture of General Goodwin is taken from the portrait by Maurice Greifenhagen in the Headquarter Mess, R.A.M.C. Notices to which we are indebted have appeared in the Army Medical Services Magazine, the Lancet, The Times, and the British Medical Journal besides more personal accounts by Sir Henry Bashford, F.R.C.P., and Sir Henry Holland, C.I.E. We are greatly indebted to Lieutenant-General Sir James Hartigan, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., for the following note.

"The official career of the late Sir John Goodwin has been fully recorded in the lay and medical press. I have been asked to add a few words regarding the man in his private capacity. This I do with some misgiving, as I write entirely from memory, and as one gets old memory cannot always be relied on.

"John Goodwin was a man of much charm and of attractive appearance added to by his white hair which developed early in life. His career in the Corps was meteoric and he must have been the youngest D.G. in its history. While he was in that office the Great War came to an end. The post-war period was a difficult one for the Director General. Economy was then uppermost in the minds of the Government, and Goodwin was under constant pressure to cut down expenditure as ruthlessly and urgently as possible.

"Sir John's appointment as Governor of Queensland gave much satisfaction to the Corps. He was very popular with the Queenslanders, one of whom told me some years later that he was one of the most popular Governors they ever had. Goodwin was fond of relating that while at Brisbane he had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Amy Johnson at the end of her famous flight from England. She stayed a few days with the Goodwins and impressed everyone in favourably, being seemingly unconscious of having achieved anything unusual.

"On return to England they took a charming place in Wiltshire about five miles from Devizes with a small partridge shoot attached. This latter gave Sir John immense pleasure and he spent much of his time on its care and development. I remember

spending a very pleasant day with him walking round the shoot. It was the hatching season and he seemed to know the exact location of every nest. He was very generous in his invitations to shoot, especially to the young officers of the local depot to whom he gave much encouragement. About that time he wrote a book on how to organize and run a small shooting which was very well reviewed by the sporting press. In his young days he was a keen horseman and was at one time master of the Quetta hounds.

"Both he and Lady Goodwin loved their home in Wiltshire and I am sure they both hoped they would end their days there, but it was not to be; Hitler arranged it otherwise. When during the last war the chauffeur and maids left for war service, the Goodwins tried for some time to carry on alone, which meant among other things that he had to ride a bicycle to Devizes twice a week to procure supplies. They soon found it was more than they could manage, and they moved into a hotel in a local town. I well remember his letter describing his feelings at the time. It was the last letter I received from him, and owing to my return to Ireland on retirement we never met again.

"Sir John Goodwin added lustre to our Corps. A man of the highest integrity, he was greatly respected by all with whom he came in contact, and it was the general belief that he held in a marked degree the trust and confidence of his Sovereign.

Major-General D. C. MONRO
C.B., C.B.E., F.R.C.S.

A full obituary notice appears in the Army Medical Services Magazine,¹ in addition to those in The Times,² the Lancet³ and the British Medical Journal.⁴ We are pleased to print the address given by Sir Heneage Ogilvie, K.B.E., F.R.C.S., at the memorial service for General Monro.

"I am honoured to be allowed to speak of my friend Jock Monro in the Chapel of the Corps that he loved, to which he devoted his life, and which today remembers that life with gratitude. Many of you can speak of General Monro from longer acquaintance and more intimate knowledge. None can speak with greater admiration or more real affection.

"I knew he was a New Zealander, that he qualified in Edinburgh, where his forbears had been among the most notable surgical dynasty in history. I knew of his service in India, where he made many friends, and whence he brought many stories in the telling of which his unique gifts as a mimic were seen to advantage. There is no doubt that his service as Consulting Surgeon in the Middle East was his finest hour. He had a wonderful opportunity, and he was without question the man for that opportunity. Like most men who have risen magnificently to a historic occasion, he had trained himself for such a moment, and was ready for it when it came. He had made himself an excellent surgeon, one with the basic soundness of the Edinburgh training, and the balanced judgment of one who had faced many problems in the

¹ Army Medical Services Magazine (1961), XIII, 2.
past, talked them over with others, made his own decisions and acted upon them, and pondered earnestly afterwards on the lessons he had learned. He gained the patient's unquestioning trust before operation: he kept this friendship for the rest of his life.

"Friendship was one of Monro's great gifts, based on that blend of charm and sincerity that was uniquely his. The task allotted to him, to direct, advise, and administer the most brilliant group of surgeons that have ever been assembled, would have been impossible to anyone but such a man; a man with a sure grasp of surgical principles, a knowledge of the lessons of previous wars, and the know-how of a trained administrator, enabling him to strike a balance, as he often had to do, between what was desirable and what was possible with the time, the equipment and the personnel available; a man with the gift of leadership and the knack of getting what he wanted, in supplies out of the Army and in co-operation out of the civilians, just because he was so keen, so genuine, and so obviously right.

"I took over from him in August 1942, but I had already had a chance to study his problems and his methods, and to pick his brains. In June, when the campaign in Abyssinia was petering out in a series of mopping-up operations, I asked leave from my Director of Medical Services to fly up to Cairo and learn what I could. I was with Jock nearly a month. We were going to Tobruk, but the time was not one for visitors, and the fortress fell when I was on my way back to Kenya. I accompanied him to most of the General Hospitals in the Canal Zone, in Palestine, and in Syria. It was time well spent. I learned much, communicated in his inimitably humorous way, of the discipline of a huge force, and of the art of man-management at which he was such a master.

"Jock's greatest contribution to military surgery was the Field Surgical Units. I do not know to what extent he invented them or to what extent he sowed the seed and let them invent themselves. He sent out the first pioneers, surgical specialists like Bob Kellar, Peter Ascroft, and Ian Aird, much as Noah sent his dove from the ark, to see what was possible, to do it, and to report back. He then called a round table conference at which the final design was worked out. He had one thing in plenty, young surgeons of the right sort. Of the men he picked and trained in 1942, eight are now University Professors in Surgery. He found them. He gave them the job. And he inspired them with his own enthusiasm and his own indomitable spirit.

"As I stand in this chapel, hallowed by the memory of so many fine soldiers, I think Wordsworth's lines are particularly appropriate to the man whose memory has brought us together to-day.

"Who is the happy Warrior? Who is he
That every man in arms should wish to be?
It is the generous spirit, who, when brought
Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought
Upon the plan that pleased his childish thought . . .
Who, doomed to go in company with Pain,
And Fear, and Bloodshed, miserable train!
Turns his necessity to glorious gain;
In face of these doth exercise a power
Which is our human nature's highest dower."