OBITUARY

EDWARD ROWAN BOLAND, Kt., C.B.E., M.D.Dubl., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sir Rowan Boland Chairman of the Army Medical Advisory Board died on 24 August 1972 at the age of 74.

He was educated at Wimbledon College and Stoneyhurst. On leaving school in 1915 he entered Guy’s Hospital as a medical student but within a few months he had volunteered and been accepted for commissioned combatant service with the Rifle Brigade. He was severely wounded in 1917, losing an eye, and was invalided from the Army. He returned to Guy’s and in spite of developing pulmonary tuberculosis qualified in 1923 and became M.R.C.P. in 1925. He had been attached to the chest unit as a student and now diseases of the chest became his special interest. In 1934 he was appointed assistant physician to Guy’s Hospital, and elected F.R.C.P. in the following year.

On the outbreak of the second world war he rejoined the Army as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the R.A.M.C. and was soon in charge of the medical division of a general hospital in Egypt. In 1942 he was appointed consultant physician to Allied Force Headquarters in North Africa with the rank of Brigadier. He gave an account of his experiences in this capacity in his first Croonian Lecture delivered to the Royal College of Physicians 1947.

After the war he returned to Guy’s as full physician and for 20 years was dean of the medical and dental schools. He was also dean of the faculty of medicine in the University of London. He was a member of the Senate of London University, member and treasurer
of the General Medical Council and examiner, senior censor and member of the Council of the Royal College of Physicians. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1941, C.B.E. in 1945 and was knighted in 1964.

During this busy postwar period he maintained close connections with the Army. He was honorary physician from 1945 to 1970, joined the Army Medical Advisory Board in 1949 and became its Chairman in 1962. He was elected president of the United Services section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1960. In 1971 he was one of the first Consultants Emeritus appointed by the Army Board of the Defence Council in recognition of his outstanding services.

The Army Medical Services had in him a doughty champion. He had a great sense of history and was very conscious that the Army Medical Advisory Board was in the direct line of descent from the Royal Sanitary Commission set up after the Crimea War. He was under no illusion that similar circumstances with equally disastrous consequences could not occur again if the Medical Services were neglected during times of peace.

He was an ardent supporter of the concept of a large three Services postgraduate institute and hospital in central London and was impatient of forces working against its fruition. At the first sign of danger he insisted on his right of access to the Minister for Defence to declare the position of his Board, be it on matters of pay, on the decision to deprive the Army Medical Services of the Millbank Hospital site, or on the consequences of limiting the role of military hospitals to the care of the soldier.

Successive D.GsA.M.S. have appreciated his advice, forthright at times, and have been encouraged and supported by the knowledge that such a fearless champion, and constructive critic was ever ready to do battle for a cause as dear to him as to those who had made the Army their career.

He was proposing to resign from the chairmanship when the Defence Medical Services Inquiry Committee made its report, feeling that he would then have done all that he could.

That his garden was his great relaxation and pride is well known, not least by those who have endeavoured to telephone him at his home near Ashford, only to be informed he was in his garden. Few would have the temerity to disturb him there unless the matter were of the utmost importance.

The Army has lost a very good friend who will be greatly missed.

MAJOR-GENERAL A. J. ORENSTEIN, C.B., C.M.G., LL.D., D.S.C., M.D.

Older members of the Corps will note with regret that the above named died in South Africa on 7 July 1972 aged 92 years.

During World War II he served as D.G.M.S. to the South African Defence Force and many of our readers will recall him in East Africa and the Middle East. He made an immense contribution to the efficiency of his Country's medical services and was one of the outstanding medical personalities of the war.