

**DEATH OF DR. G.A. UPCOTT GILL.**

**A RESPECTED RYDE PRACTITIONER.**

We regret to announce the death in his sleep on Saturday at Wrafton House Melville Street, Ryde, of Dr. G.A. UPCOTT GILL, F.R.C.S., Edin., who at the time of his retirement in June was the doyen of Ryde medical men. He had been in failing health since April. His death removes one of the few remaining types of old family doctor, and is regretted by numerous friends, particularly among his former patients, by whom he was regarded not only as medical adviser but a sympathetic counsellor. He possessed an old-world charm of manner and courtesy, and a lively sense of humour. Severe shell shock in the first world war undermined his health, which subsequently was never robust, and his ministrations were marked by a deep understanding born of his own suffering. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. UPCOTT GILL, who nursed him with devotion throughout his illness, and the two sons.

Geoffrey Allen UPCOTT GILL was born on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1878, at Finchley, the second son of Leonard UPCOTT GILL, editor and founder of the publishing firm bearing the family name. His maternal grandfather Dr. SUMNER, was also a physician. He was educated at University College School, London, and trained at University College Hospital, taking his M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1900. In 1907 he became F.R.C.S., Edinburgh, and practised at Hatfield, Herts, until the first world war. He volunteered for the R.A.M.C. in 1915, and served in France, with the rank of captain, until 1917, when he was badly shell-shocked at Ypres. As a result he was invalided from the Army, and for a period was unable to resume his practice. Another result of his disability was that his surgical work ceased to a large extent, although he had taken a premier degree for this branch of medicine. Eventually he took a Ministry of Pensions appointment at Sidcup, Kent, where he was medical superintendent at Queen's Hospital. He came to Ryde in 1926 as a general practitioner, in partnership with Dr. T. JONES in George Street. After the death of Dr. JONES a few months later, he took over the practice. He was medical officer of the former Ryde Dispensary for many years, and during the last war served on the Services' Medical Board for the Island. Dr. UPCOTT GILL contributed to the Medical Journal in 1924, and in the same year "The Lancet" published an article by him on the dangers of using unabsorbable sutures in intestinal anastomosis. He was a member of the British Medical Association, and as such appeared on local platforms in the spring of 1948 at meetings which were addressed by members on their attitude to the National Health Bill.

The doctor had been a member of the Royal Victoria Y.C. since 1939, and served on the general committee until early this year. He enjoyed lawn tennis, and was a member of the Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. His principal sporting interest, however, was trout fishing, and he annually spent two holidays following this pursuit, mostly in the Thames tributaries. His garden claimed much of his leisure, and he was a knowledgeable floriculturist and a particularly keen rose grower. Often to give pleasure to his patients he would bring flowers from his garden for their sick room. The doctor was much interested in antique furniture, and his collection included many artistic and beautiful pieces. He also had an almost expert knowledge of old prints and engravings. He was a member of Holy Trinity Church, on whose behalf he had frequently allowed the use of his grounds for fetes. In politics he was an ardent Conservative.

He married in 1910 Miss Constance BIRT, only daughter of Sir William BIRT, general manager of the Great Eastern Railway Co.

**The Funeral.**

There was a large congregation on Wednesday at Ryde Parish Church, where the funeral service was conducted by the Vicar (Canon A. CORY, R.D). Mr. W. L. KEEN (organist) played a Chopin prelude, Mendelssohn's 'O rest in the Lord,' and, as a recessional, 'I know that my Redeemer liveth' (Handel). The choir led the singing of "On the resurrection morning," and "The day Thou gavest," and the chanting of Psalm 23 and the Nunc Dimittis.

The mourners were Mrs. G.A. UPCOTT GILL (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. R. and Mr. and Mrs. H.L. UPCOTT GILL (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. B. C. UPCOTT GILL (brother), Mrs. D. KISLINGBURY and Miss N. UPCOTT GILL (sisters), Miss J. KISLINGBURY (niece), and Mr. G. HUNT (lawyer).

The Royal Victoria Y.C. was represented by the Commodore (Capt. H.W. EDWARDS, R.N., ret., also representing Mrs. EDWARDS) and Mr. H. S. SAUNDERS, O.B.E. (also representing Mrs. SAUNDERS), The Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club by Mr. G.H.A. CANTOPHER, C.C. (president)

and Mr. H.A. COMPTON, Ryde and District Nursing Association by Miss E.H. MOSS (superintendent) and Nurse M.I. BODY, Holy Trinity Mothers' Union by Mrs. M. MILLER and Mrs. O. GILLET, and the Ancient Order of Foresters by Mr. E.A. LANGDON (also representing Mrs. LANGDON).

Others present included Mr. F. WILSON HARLOW, Dr. T. SIM, Dr. T. HAMBLEY (also representing Dr. C.V. KAUIA), Mrs. DOCKRAY (representing Dr. J. DOCKRAY), Mrs. A.A. BURRELL (representing Dr.A.A. BURRELL), Mrs. MAYO (representing Dr..T.A.MAYO), Mr. W. W. HARGREAVES (also representing Mrs. HARGREAVES, Mr. HART, and Mr. R.A.S.TIPPER), Miss F. SCOTT (representing the Home Hospital), Mr. E.O. KIRK, C.C., and Mrs. and Miss KIRK, Mrs. MEARS (representing Mr. G.E. MEARS, J.P). Mr. G. BLACKLOCK (also representing Mr. HOLLIS. B. FOWLER and Mrs. E. MOSELEY), Col. C.H. McCALLUM, C.C., and Mrs. McCALLUM, Mr. J.C.M. ELDRIDGE (representing Messrs. J.ELDRIDGE and Sons and Mrs. J.C.M. ELDRIDGE), Mrs. G.H.A. CANTOPHER (also representing Mr. and Mrs. P.G.A. CANTOPHER), Mr. H.E.G JARVIS, Mr. P.C. RICHARDO (representing the Midland Bank), Comdr. W.O. REES-MILLINGTON, C.C., and Mrs. REES MILLINGTON, Mrs. MARVIN (also representing Mr. E.P. MARVIN), Mr. and Mrs. P. RUSSELL, Mr. and Mrs. L.C. YOUNG, Mr. and Mrs. A. ROGERS (also representing Mrs. G.H.V. BONNER), Mr. and Mrs. F.A. COOPER, Mr. and Mrs. P.T. ALLEN, Mr. and Mrs. G.R. TAPP, Mr. and Mrs. V. BULLEN, and Mr. and Mrs. F. PORTER, Messrs. C.E. HILL, F. MORGAN (also representing Mrs. MORGAN), H.R. BROWN (also representing Mrs. BROWN), E.E. WEEKS (also representing Mrs. WEEKS), A.J. ARCHER, W.C. WHEATLEY, H.D. STEELE (also representing Mrs. STEELE), Wilmer WHEELER (also representing Mrs. WHEELER), F.W. HULL, and S.W. BUTT, Mesdames B. WHIFFIN, E.M. WELSH, M. SPENCER, K. WEARN, EM. WILLIAMS, H. MARTIN, A.C. LININGTON (representing Mr. and Mrs. S.J. HOFMAN), A. FORD, H. BRADING, R.E. EASTEY, THREADGOLD (representing Mr. F. THREADGOLD, gardener), CROWE (representing Mr. G.W. CROWE), L. MANFIELD, A. SQUIBB (representing Mr. J. RUSSELL), P. LANGDON, WARD (representing Mr. A.B. WARD), F. RHIND, E.C. LOADER, and O.M. SAVILL, Nurse A.J. BAKER and the Misses L. HUDSON (also representing Miss I. HUDSON), W.\J. THRIPP, N. FORD, M. and A. JONES, E. LOVEGROVE, N.H. and M. RYAN, RAMSEY, G. ANDREWS (also representing Nurse ANDREWS), E. WALLER, H.M. TILL (also representing Miss E. TILL), V. RICHARDS, TILLER, M. COMDEN (also representing Miss J. COMDEN), E. PARKER, P. SIVIER, E. BRIGGS, MACGREGOR, K. GRINSTEAD (also representing Mr. and Mr. F.P. HARDY), G.L. OSBORNE (also representing Mrs. S.G. OSBORNE), F. LANGDON, F. ATTRILL (also representing A., and E., and Nurse G.I. ATTRILL and Mr. and Mrs. MOVELEY). The interment was in the family grave in Ryde Cemetery and there were many floral tributes.

---

Researched & typed by  
Ann Barrett  
Margaret Truckel