

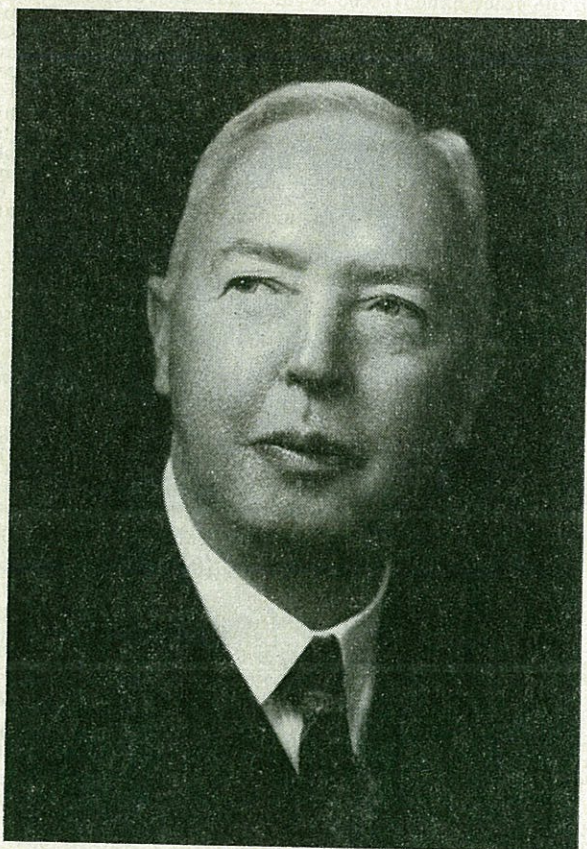
## OBITUARY

## JOSEPH STANLEY VERCO

We are indebted to SIR LEONARD LINDON for the following account of the career of the late Dr J. Stanley Verco.

The death of Joseph Stanley Verco, of Adelaide, occurred on July 26, 1971, in his eighty-second year. The name of Verco holds a highly honoured position in the Australian medical world, and since the days of the late Sir Joseph Verco, there have been at least ten members of the Verco family in the medical profession.

"Stan Verco"—as he was known to us—was educated at Prince Alfred College. He then entered the University of Adelaide Medical School, and pursued a brilliant course, gaining top place in each year of the course, with the Everard Scholarship at the end of his final year. He was a member of the University athletic and lacrosse teams, gaining a lacrosse blue in 1912. And all his life, he was a very keen yachtsman.



Shortly after he had completed his year as resident medical officer at the Adelaide Hospital, the First World War broke out, and Stan Verco and his lifelong friend, the late Fred Le Messurier, enlisted at once, and were posted to the No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital. The writer—a second-year medical student—was a private in this hospital unit, and remembers with immense gratitude the kindness of these two medical officers, who found time to teach some clinical medicine to a beginner. While on Lemnos Island, this Stationary Hospital was equipped with a portable X-ray unit, which we subsequently took up to Gallipoli. Stan Verco certainly used this machine, and perhaps it was the origin of his lifelong interest in radiology.

He then served with the A.A.M.C. in France until the end of the war, with the rank of major.

Returning to Adelaide in 1919, he became Surgical Registrar to the Adelaide Children's Hospital (Inc.), and in 1920 he became Honorary Radiologist to the hospital. In 1924 he commenced private practice in radiology and radiotherapy on North Terrace, and continued in this practice until a month before his death this year, when ill health enforced his retirement. During these years, he made three visits overseas for postgraduate study, working in England, Vienna and the United States. For many years he held honorary appointments in radiology and radiotherapy at the Adelaide Children's Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and was Visiting Radiologist to the Department of Repatriation. He was a foundation member of the Australasian Association of Radiologists, and when this became The College of Radiologists of Australasia, he was elected as the first President. And during the Second World War, as well as carrying on his many hospital appointments, he found time to act as part-time D.A.D.M.S., with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Stan Verco played a very important part in the development of mass miniature chest radiography, particularly in the provision of mobile caravan X-ray units, which have made compulsory chest X-ray examinations so readily available and have contributed so much to the early detection of pulmonary tuberculosis.

It will be seen, from this brief review of a long life, that the late Stan Verco was a man of ideas and action. Fortright in speech and debate, he left his audience in no doubt as to his opinion, particularly in matters pertaining to radiology. And the writer had great reason to be grateful to Stan and his partner, the late Colin Gurner, for their help in the early years of neuroradiology. He was a very staunch friend, with a keen sense of humour, and always happy to help younger men with his advice and experience. During the First World War, he married Miss Dorothy Willis in England. He is survived by two daughters and a son, Dr Peter Verco, who has followed in the footsteps of his father as a radiologist. To them, and to the six grandchildren, we offer the deepest sympathy.

## KENNETH STEPHEN RICHARDSON

We are indebted to DR J. C. ENGLISH for the following account of the career of the late Dr K. S. Richardson.

On June 15, 1971, Kenneth Stephen Richardson died in The St George Hospital, Kogarah, New South Wales, an institution he had served for almost the whole of his professional life.

He was born on March 6, 1908, at Dulwich Hill, and was the youngest of three sons, his brothers being Athol and Gordon, both well known in Sydney in their respective professions. His father was a major in the Salvation Army.

I first met him as a medical student when we began our course in 1926. He was one of a group of students from Fort Street Boys' High School, and in particular of a subgroup of three who later all became surgeons—one in general surgery, one in oto-rhino-laryngology, and Ken Richardson in gynaecology and obstetrics. He was a competent student and had no difficulty in completing his course in allotted time. Of all things, a bout of murine typhus fever almost took his life in the fifth year of his course, and I still recall looking in on him as he lay, gaunt and stuporose, unshaven for a week, in his room in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital isolation block. It was rather staggering to us all to realize that death could befall young medical students as well as their patients. Thanks to a good constitution and good treatment, Ken recovered.

It was during our time as resident medical officers at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital that his enormous capacity to entertain people was really brought home to us. He was a tremendous success at parties and a wonderful