

THE CARLILE PRIZE 2004: NORWICH MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY

Dr James Patton Carlile MB BS LRCPEd LRCSEd LRCPSG (all 1933) was in single handed practice in Norwich at his home at 467 Earlham Road. He was born in 1911 and served as a colonial medical officer in Iraq and Palestine in 1936 and Borneo in 1939 where he was captured by the Japanese and interned for the duration. He had also acted in 1939 as MO to the Public Schools' Expedition to Newfoundland. In 1949 he married June, the sister of Sir Edmund Hilary, who, with the Nepalese climber Tensing, made the first successful ascent of the summit of Everest in 1953: in fact it was from his brother-in-law's house in Earlham Road that Hilary made his first broadcast following his return from the Himalayas.

His hobbies were photography, music and sailing (he was a member of The Punt Club at Barton Broad).

After his death on 14/10/76, his widow bequeathed £100 to The Society in order to establish an annual Essay Prize for GPs (she subsequently returned to her native New Zealand and is thought still to be alive). The prize was abandoned after a decade or so for lack of interest, but during David Ralph's term of service as Honorary Secretary in 1989, the prize was re-endowed by the Society; it was decided to change the award to one for presentation of research papers by Specialist Registrars. A medal was also struck, and the prize has gone from strength to strength. The most recent change has been to move the judging to a lunchtime slot, which has achieved better support, particularly from the hospital junior staff.

ROBERT JT JARVIS, Past President. Notes compiled at short notice for the 2004 competition meeting, from conversations with Dr. A. Batty-Shaw and Mr. D. Ralphs, Past Presidents. Further information probably exists in the Society's archives.