J.C. BROOM, M.D.
1902 -- 1960

An Appreciation

On 16th March Dr. J.C. Broom died suddenly at his home in London after a short illness. Born in Scotland he studied medicine at the University of St. Andrews, qualified in 1924 and took his degree of M.D. in 1929. A year before he had joined the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research (now the Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine) in London and has since remained there.

In his early bacteriological work he collaborated with Dr. H. C. Brown in devising the well-known "Brown's Opacity Tubes", used extensively in the standardization of vaccines. For his work during the last war, when he was in charge of the Wellcome Yellow Fever Immunization Centre, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

John Broom was perhaps best known for his work in the field of leptospirosis after the war. He was a founder member and Secretary of the Leptospira Subcommittee of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature and through his active work and personal qualities became one of the foremost authorities in this branch of science and a dear friend to all members of the Committee who had the privilege to meet him on several occasions, when his sound advice was held in high esteem.

He was the author and co-author of more than 40 scientific papers and studies, of which his book "Leptospirosis in Man and Animals" (Livingston Ltd. 1958), published in association with Dr. J.M. Alston, has already become a classic in its field.

The remembrance of his charming personal qualities will be cherished by all who came in contact with him.

J.W. Wolff, M.D.
Chairman of the Leptospira Subcommittee