
In Memoriam

DR. ANNA BROMAN



On 22nd. February 1962 the death occurred of
Dr. Anna Broman Medical Adviser to the Clinic
and Doctor in charge of the Students' Health.

Dr. Broman was the only daughter of Swedish parents Alan and Ida Broman. She was born in England and went to a day school in London. She was the niece of Madame Bergman Osterberg, the founder of Dartford College of Physical Education and spent much of her time as a child with her Aunt and then trained at Dartford from 1909-1911. Soon after this she studied medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington and qualified as a doctor.

Towards the end of the first world war she worked in hospitals in Belgium and France. She had experience in many different hospitals, "The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry", "The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital", "The South London Hospital for Women", "The Royal Free Hospital", and "The Rheumatism Clinic in Feto Place". She taught at the Swedish Institute in Kensington and for many years served as an examiner for the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. All this service, except Oswestry, would seem to be concurrent with practising privately, first in New Cavendish Street and then in Wimpole Street. Dr. Broman refused to join the National Health Panels as she believed that Patients were a personal charge to a doctor, and she could not equate this dedicated work with the ideas basic to nationalised medical services.

After the death of Dr Dorothy Hanson in 1936, Dr. Broman joined the

visiting staff at Dartford, as Medical Advisor to the Clinic and as Doctor in charge of the students' health. However hardpressed, she never failed to come each week. Even during the war years when the College was evacuated to Cornwall she faced long night journeys to come once or twice a month. She spent the last day of her professional life at Dartford, only four weeks before she died after a painful illness which lasted for several years and finally necessitated the amputation of her left leg and rehabilitation for walking on an artificial leg.

But what of Dr. Bryman as a person? It would need her own gift of words to do justice to her character. Hers was a gallant personality, a courageous and independent spirit. She showed a true awareness of truth, goodness and beauty. With her power to think clearly, she sought for truth. She could give detached advice. Her critical faculties and ability to weigh up a difficult situation were much appreciated by her friends, and in contrast, so too was her gaiety, and laughter of lighter moments. Her lectures were always provocative and convincing because of her intense interest and varied experiences. Her choice of words, and intellectual quality, inspired her listeners and left them thoughtful. She challenged loose thinking—but this relentless search for clarity of thought was sometimes too exacting for a diffident student.

Her search for truth was closely linked with the quality of goodness and mercy. She had great sympathy with her patients and her friends. She could be stern, but was so compassionate with the foibles of human nature that all her thoughts were concerned with helping others to help

themselves. She encouraged people in every walk of life, and in every sort of trouble. Her energy never flagged and throughout her life she preserved her personal touch and her veneration for human beings.

She was very aware of beauty, beauty of deed, of word, of art, and of nature. She was interested in every phase of life in London. She visited and enjoyed the theatre, the art galleries. She took great delight each week when visiting College to walk in the garden amongst the flowers and trees. She particularly liked the mellow golden colours of the Kentish Autumn.

The holidays she took were short and rare, but from her vivid descriptions undoubtedly enjoyed. Her love of nature, her zest for life, and the philosophy by which she lived are reflected in Poems which she wrote during her leisure, which have now been published. She was a faithful follower of the Austrian Philosopher Rudolf Steiner (this philosophy sustained her during her long illness). She left life reluctantly but on this earth had accomplished much and had helped many.

G.M. Cox,
Vice Principal.