

Obituary notices

We are sorry to have to record the deaths of two distinguished members of the Association.

Peter MacCarthy

J. L. Woodhead writes:

Peter MacCarthy was educated at Rugby and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he obtained the B.A. in Modern and Medieval Languages in 1934. After teaching French and German at Rugby, then at Stowe, he studied at University College London under Daniel Jones. In 1939 he obtained the Diploma in the Phonetics of French, and was appointed Assistant in DJ's department. During the war, he worked for the British Council, for the BBC Announcer's Training Unit, and for the Services, teaching courses in Pronunciation. In 1934 he was appointed Lecturer in Phonetics at the School of Oriental and African Studies. In 1945 the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company invited him to investigate the pronunciation of Persian.

The University of Leeds established a Department of Phonetics in 1948, and MacCarthy was its first and only head, first as Lecturer, then from 1953 as Senior Lecturer. When he retired in 1977 there were seven academic staff in his department, and the Department of Phonetics offered courses for M.A. Phonetics and the Post-graduate Diploma in Phonetics, contributed to B.A. courses combining Linguistics and Phonetics with Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, offered General Phonetics as a Subsidiary Subject in the B.A. degree, and did a great deal of pronunciation teaching for the modern language departments.

MacCarthy's lifelong interest was in Phonetics as applied to the teaching of pronunciation, and this is clear from his collected articles *Talking of Speaking* (1972), and, of course, from *The Teaching of Pronunciation* (1978). His early work was on English—*English Pronunciation* and the *English Conversation Reader*, the latter a pioneer work in the area of English intonation studies. More recently, *The Pronunciation of French* and *The Pronunciation of German* have appeared, and notes were collected for a book on the pronunciation of Italian in the same series.

One thinks of MacCarthy as a very gifted person. He had an extraordinarily good ear, coupled with unusual powers of mimicry. He had a perfect pronunciation in a number of languages, and was also skilled as a musician, and as an actor. His performance as the postmaster in Gogol's *The Government Inspector* in the old Staff

Dramatic Society was long remembered. He was also, less predictably, an excellent photographer.

Peter MacCarthy was a member of the Council of the IPA, and was also a member of the Committee of the British Association for Applied Linguistics. He retired from his post in Leeds in 1977 with ambitious plans for further professional work. However his health failed, and he died after heart surgery in 1979. His career in Leeds spanned the whole development, and in fact the whole separate existence of the Phonetics Department, now merged in the Department of Linguistics and Phonetics. He will be long remembered in the profession as an outstanding figure, and with gratitude and affection by his many former pupils throughout the world, who found him a brilliant teacher.

Dr W. E. Jones

J. W. L. writes :

Bill Jones (1922–78) was a Yorkshireman. He had his schooling at Doncaster and after teacher-training at York and war service in the Royal Navy read English at Leeds. He followed his B.A. with an M.A. in the same department which took the form of a study on 'The definite article in living Yorkshire dialect' published in *Leeds Studies in English and Kindred Languages* in 1952. He spent the 1950s as Lecturer in Phonetics in London at the School of Oriental and African Studies. His war-period service had taken him to India and given him an abiding interest in several of the sub-continent's languages. It had also given him a knowledge of electronics which served as a background to his special interests in the phonetics laboratory at Edinburgh where he moved in 1961, becoming Senior Lecturer in Phonetics there in 1964. In that year he underwent a serious operation for a kidney complaint which had troubled him for some time and his health had been much improved for six years until he was cruelly afflicted with a paralysing stroke in the summer of 1970.

Even his speech had been affected. He had to rehabilitate it from a condition of dysphasia and aphonia which he turned characteristically to account in a paper published in 1972 in the *British Journal of Disorders of Communication*.

Some readers will perhaps recall his bravely cheerful appearance in 1975 at the Eighth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in a wheelchair with the staunch support of his wife Joyce and one of their sons. He fought back courageously to keep his teaching

going in such forms as he could manage and he seemed to write more than he had ever done before.

He had published some articles and a few thoughtful, generous reviews—two of the latter in these pages. He now edited (with John Laver) the excellent selection of articles *Phonetics in Linguistics* (1973) and contributed two articles on Hindi to this *Journal* (published in 1971 and 1973) and worked at a scheme which turned from a projected Hindi phonetic reader into a full-blown doctoral thesis, presented shortly before his death, on *Accent and Intonation in Hindi* for which he was awarded his doctorate posthumously. This was work he did while in his last years only kept alive by dialysis.

Bill Jones will no doubt best be remembered for his outstandingly likeable personality. What he enjoyed most was human intercourse. He was the most companionable and convivial of friends and colleagues. He was the most sympathetic and helpful of teachers. His good-natured friendliness will be remembered not only by his colleagues and students in phonetics but also by all his pupils on courses, abroad and in this country, for teachers of English as a foreign language. He took immense pleasure in that side of his work particularly in the British Council London Summer School 'The Teaching of Spoken English' he set up and ran for eight years (1962–9).

His interests were wide. He loved music; he could keep a sing-song going indefinitely from the piano. He enjoyed reading. He had been a very capable cricketer. He was a delightful raconteur. He was one of the nicest fellows you could possibly meet. His is a great loss to our fellowship of phoneticians.