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OBITUARY

George Nightingale

George Nightingale was educated at Campbell College and Queen's University, Belfast. He joined the RAF Medical Branch in May 1943, seeing service in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. He resumed his surgical career at Belfast City Hospital from 1946 to 1949. For the next 10 years he worked in the Cameroons and Sierra Leone. Surgery started very early to avoid the heat of the day and was of necessity very varied. One list, for example, included a cataract, a hysterectomy, a dental extraction, and a hernia.

In 1960 he moved to Shepton Mallet and joined the general practice at nearby Oakhill, where he remained until his reluctant retirement on his 70th birthday in 1985. He is remembered in Oakhill for visiting snowed in patients by tractor in a bad winter, and for many local events at which he did duty, including the Royal Bath and West Show.

He was a supporter of the British Limbless Exservicemen, and was made an Honorary Member of their organisation. He had a long

interest in sports medicine, and was delighted when his son, Danny, was one of the gold medal winners in the modern pentathlon at the Montreal Olympics in 1976. Although his final illness was short, he had made an excellent recovery from heart attacks and extensive chest surgery about 15 years earlier.

His interests outside medicine included classical music, and he was an accomplished pianist. He enjoyed the restoration of his ancient cottage at North Wootton where he had an immaculate garden decorated with ammonite fossils, and a weed-free lawn. Although not noted for his tolerance of fools gladly or otherwise, George was a generous and entertaining companion. He died aged 78 and leaves a wife, Joan, four sons, a daughter, and 10 grandchildren.

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