OBITUARY

Dr. Maurice Livingstone Thomson

It is with regret that we note the death of Dr. Maurice Thomson on 29th March, 1981, aged 73.

He was born in Lanarkshire, the son of the Manse, and obtained BSc Chemistry in 1929. After a short period of chemical research, he became a science teacher. Just before the war, he entered Glasgow University School of Medicine, and qualified in 1942.

He was a House Surgeon at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, but joined the Royal Navy in 1943, and during service at sea became interested in problems of chloride balance and heat stress. This led to shore appointments at Cambridge and Singapore, and studies in cold environments were carried out after the war.

He retired from the Royal Navy in 1950, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and joined the Physiology Department at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

He became interested in the stresses due to exercise and in the climatic hazards of competing in sport in different environments, and was one of the earliest members of the Fitness and Training Section of the Ergonomics Research Society. He conducted a good deal of respiratory research in athletes and I first came across him when he was studying respiratory function in young Olympic possibles selected by the Amateur Swimming Association, for the Easter Course, which was held annually at Loughborough College of Education.

He joined the British Association of Sport and Medicine in 1962, and gave us helpful advice and loyal service until his resignation in 1971, at which time his interests were switched to other aspects of respiratory physiology.

I found Maurice Thomson a very stimulating and knowledgeable research worker who would, with patience and understanding, explain his techniques to those who were not experts in respiratory physiology, and proudly showed me his whole-body plethysmograph, which he constructed at the School of Hygiene.

His death will be a big loss to exercise physiology and we offer our sympathy to his wife and family.

H. E. Robson