

## Obituary

**J. C. SPROULE, C.B.E., L.R.C.P.I., D.P.H.**

Brigadier J. C. Sproule, who had a distinguished career in both the first and second world wars, died on May 15 at the age of 67.

James Chambers Sproule was born on August 28, 1887, the fourth son of Alexander H. R. Sproule, J.P., of Fintona, Tyrone, and was educated at the Royal School, Raphoe, receiving his medical training at the Dublin Royal Colleges. He obtained the Irish Conjoint diploma in 1912, and took the Belfast D.P.H. in 1926.

Immediately after qualification, Sproule entered the R.A.M.C. as a lieutenant, being promoted captain in 1915. He served in France throughout the first world war, was twice mentioned in dispatches, and, in addition to receiving the British war medals, was awarded the French Croix de Guerre in 1920. In the previous year he was appointed O.B.E. for his war services. Receiving his majority in 1924, he was promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1934, colonel in 1940, and temporary brigadier in 1942. During the second world war he was again mentioned in dispatches, and in 1941 was promoted C.B.E.

During his service career Sproule held a number of important appointments, including those of deputy assistant director of hygiene in India, from 1929 to 1933, and, later, deputy director of hygiene in the Middle East Force, the Scottish Command, and the Eastern Command. He retired in 1947 and went to live at Somerton, in Somerset, where he became county medical officer for the British Red Cross Society. He married Miss Clare S. Aldous, second daughter of Mr. G. F. Aldous, F.R.C.S.Ed., of Plymouth, in 1915, and she survives him, together with the son and daughter of the marriage.

Dr. E. J. RYAN-MACMAHON writes from Greenmount, Western Australia: Having enjoyed the privilege of working with the late Brigadier Sproule when he was deputy director of hygiene, Middle East Force, I wish to pay tribute to his memory. He did an enormous amount of work during the depressing period that preceded Alamein. Sproule's knowledge of the Middle East was such that he was constantly being consulted by departments unrelated to medicine, wherefore he suffered frequent interruptions, but he always displayed admirable patience and unfailing courtesy. He made a very big contribution to the success of a victorious campaign and left behind the impression of a noble and kindly gentleman.