

Dr G. R. Orchard

Weaker ties between doctor and his patients regretted, Oxford Times July 1st 1958

Dr G R Orchard, the Wheatley Family doctor, who retires on Saturday, does not like the National Health Service because, he says, it tends to take people to the hospitals, and away from the care and attention of the local practitioner.

He says: "I have always been used too, and prefer the family doctor practice, in which one can bring babies into the world, care for them, and watch them grow up."

Doctor Orchard, who is 62, has practised for 29 years in Wheatley, and villages within a seven-mile radius, and last month about 250 of those he has served gathered at his home to express their appreciation.

Dr Orchard came to Wheatley from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, where he had practised as an assistant to his father for a little more than two years. He is proud of the fact that his father's medical service of 40 years, together with his own and that of a cousin, total more than 100 years.

Good friend

Wheatley will miss him not only as a doctor, but as a very good friend. In his own words, he has "always tried to do everything with friendliness and with no class distinction, treating everybody alike."

With Mr W. Tombs and others he was responsible for getting the water supply laid on about 25 years ago; he has been a member of the Parish Church Council for the past five years, and vicar's Warden for two years; and he has been president of the Village Produce Association since its formation 18 years ago.

He will be best remembered for the many functions which have been held in the gardens of his house in Wheatley.

Classes for Police

Dr Orchard served in the 1914-18 war. During the 1939-45 war he was responsible for the training of many Red Cross Groups, and for first aid and medical instruction to the County Police, who attended classes at his house. Besides caring for more than 6,000 patients during this period, he was in charge of Chippinghurst Manor Maternity Home, where 3,000 babies were born.

The doctor and his wife are going to live in a large country house near Falmouth, and will be joined by his 85 year old mother. In doing this they will have achieved one of their main ambitions - to return to Falmouth, where they spent their honeymoon.

Here the doctor says, he will devote some of his time to relieving friends in the medical profession, and he will enjoy the rest in his garden and at his piano.

Dr Orchard will be succeeded by Dr Flury, who has come to Wheatley from Norfolk.