

Notes on Arnold Alcock, MB BS Lond, Senior Surgeon at Gloucester Royal Infirmary

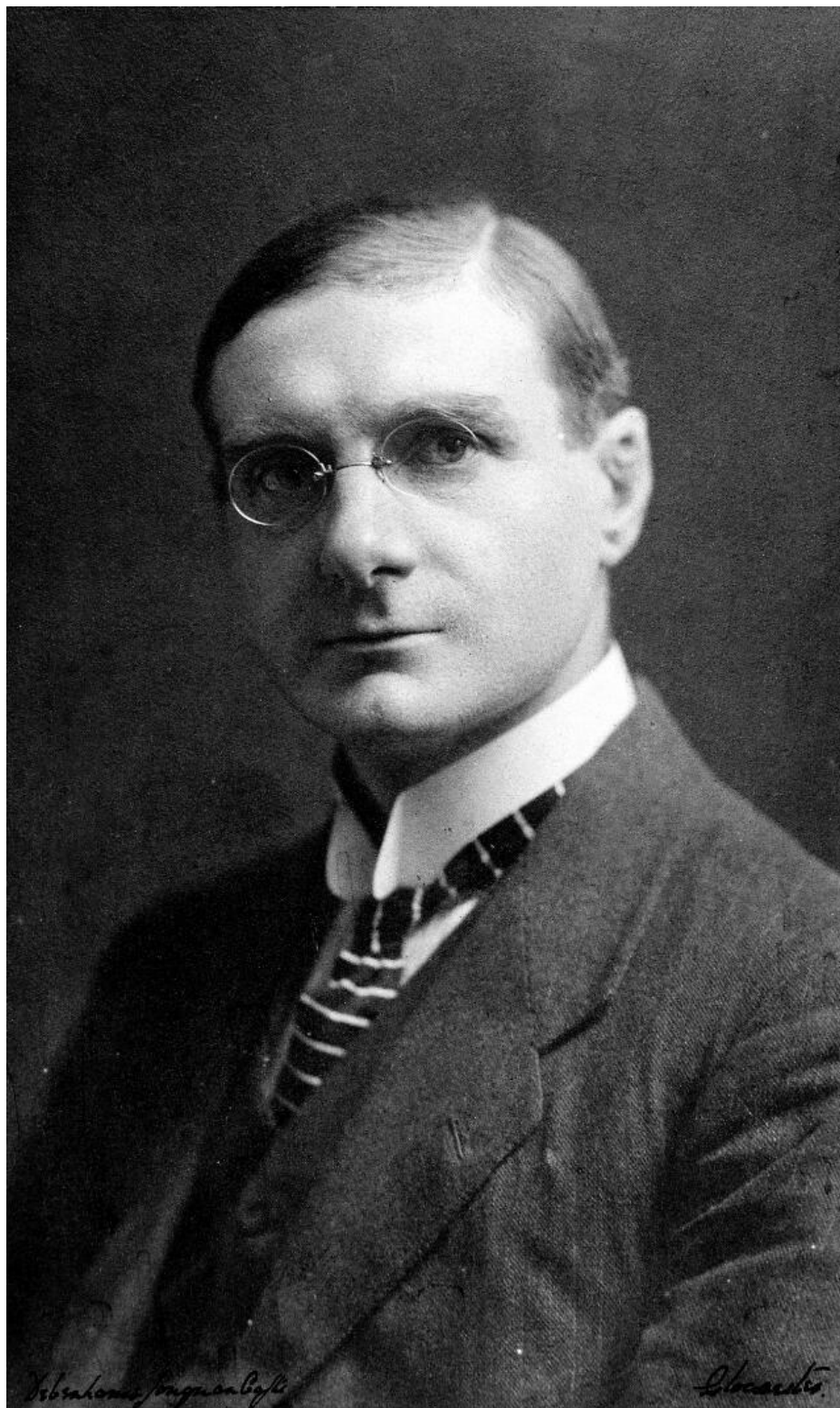


Photo: JSTOR - Wellcome

1882

Birth date: 18.08.1882 (*1939 Register*)

Baptised at St Paul's Church, Burslem, Staffs 13.09.1882; father John Alcock, Surgeon and mother Mary Hannah. (Parish register) A note was added to the register, stating that the name 'John' had been added at Arnold's confirmation in March 1899.

1891

The census shows that Arnold was living at 61 Newcastle Street, Burslem, Staffs, with his parents John and Mary, three brothers and two sisters. His father was listed as a General Practitioner of Surgery, as was his oldest brother Samuel, age 28. The household had three servants, a cook, housemaid and nurse.

1901

By 1901 the census shows that Arnold was a student aged 18, living at Hulme Hall, Plymouth Grove, South Manchester. Also resident were a number of other students, a Professor of Education and a Demonstrator in Chemistry.

1906

Qualified as a medical practitioner at Guys Hospital, London. (*Medical Directories*)

1910

Married Ruth Graham from Burslem, Staffs. (*BMD index*)

1911

Census shows Arnold age 28 and his wife, Ruth, living at 12 Barton Street, Gloucester. His occupation was Bachelor of Medicine and of Surgery. He was listed as having been married one year. Arnold and Ruth had two servants, a cook and housemaid. On the same street, at no 14 lived George Ancrum, Physician and Surgeon and at Elton House, no 10 Barton Street, was Ernest Bower, Consulting Surgeon with his wife and family. Charles Cuthbert, consulting surgeon, and his wife lived at no 4, Barton Street.

A report of a recital that took place at the Cathedral in Gloucester in February 1911, noted that Arnold Alcock played two violin solos. (*Glos Echo 03.02.1911*)

1912, 1913

Electoral roll shows Arnold residing at 12 Barton Street

1914

Electoral roll – residing at 12 Barton Street.

Kellys Directory lists Arnold Alcock in the commercial and medical lists as well as his private address: Alcock, Arnold MB BS Lond. Firm; 'Goss and Alcock', 12 Barton Street.

Death of Ruth Alcock, aged 28 (*BMD index*)

It was reported that at a meeting of the Election (Medical Officers) Committee of the GRI that Dr Arnold Alcock had become elected as an honorary surgeon at GRI. (*Glos. Echo 28.12.1916*)

1918

Electoral roll shows Arnold living at 12 Barton Street.

Reported in the *Glos. Chronicle* that Arnold Alcock married Hilda Margaret, daughter of Richard Earle of Grindlefont, Derbyshire, by special licence on 1st August 1918.

1919, 1920,

Electoral Roll – living at 12 Barton Street. His wife, Hilda, also listed.

1921

Census shows Arnold age 38, living at 12 Barton Street with his wife, Hilda, daughter Ursula age 6 and son Guy age 3. His occupation was listed as a surgeon and his place of work was 12 Barton Street. The family had four servants; a cook, nurse, under nurse and general servant.

1924

Arnold Alcock was elected president of Gloucester Rugby Club, a position he held for 45 years – he was known as 'The Doc'.

1922, 1923,1924,1925,1926,1928,1929.1930,1931

Electoral roll lists both Arnold and Hilda Alcock as resident at 12 Barton Street.

1930

Medical directory lists A A as residing at 12 Barton St, Gloucester.

Qualifications: MB BS Lond 1906 (Guys) Honorary Surgeon at GRI, Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, President of the Gloucester Branch of the British Medical Association 1925-1926. Late Out-pt Officer, House Surgeon and Obstetric Resident at Guys Hospital. Author of 'Chronic Pelvic Pain in Women' BMJ **1926**

Website: Gloucester Golf Club

Arnold Alcock was captain at Glos GC in 1933/34. It was reported in the Glos. Echo in April 1938 that he proposed the toast to 'The County Golf Union' at the annual dinner of the Glos GC and he observed that "middle-aged men cannot do better than play golf.....it is the very essence of keeping fit"

1935

Kellys Directory – medical list – Arnold Alcock MB BS Lond. At 12 Barton Street, Gloucester.

Kellys Directory – commercial list – Arnold Alcock MB BS Lond., Senior Surgeon to the GRI and medical referee for the Workmen's Compensation Act

Medical directory states that he is by now the author of 'A case of traumatic pneumo-cranium' BMJ **1931**

1939

1939 Register shows Arnold Alcock, Surgeon, age 57 and his wife Hilda, living at 146 London Road. Three servants; a cook, housemaid and member of the Women's Land Army.

1940

Now a senior surgeon at GRI (*Medical Directory 1940*)

1942

GRI Minute book shows that Arnold Alcock was a member of the general committee for GRI.

Living at 146 London Road, Gloucester. Listed as a Senior Surgeon at GRI and Consultant Surgeon at Lydney Hospital and Gloucester County Mental Hospital. (*Medical Directory 1942*)

1943

At the end of May, the committee of the General Board of GRI congratulated Mr Alcock on the splendid result of the 'Wings for Victory Week' appeal of which he had been chairman when over £1000 had been raised.

1946

In August it was reported that Arnold Alcock, then age 64, was retiring from the staff of GRI under the hospital's retirement rule. However, he will continue to serve as an honorary consultant in recognition of his 'untiring services'. According to the report, he would have retired some time ago under normal circumstances but has continued for the war period due to the calling up of younger surgeons and doctors. Tributes were paid to him and three other retiring members of the medical staff at the quarterly meeting of the Governors of GRI, citing, in his case, the 32 years of devoted services to the hospital that had benefitted many people. (*Glos Journal 31.08.1946 and Glos. Citizen 27.09.1946*)

1949

Kellys Directory – Arnold Alcock, MB BS Lond, listed as resident at 9 College Green, Gloucester. Medical List shows him to be a consulting surgeon at GRI;

also listed at this practice Dr Erskine, a dermatologist, Dr Jarrett, consulting physician and Dr Hamilton, consulting obstetrician and gynaecologist.

1952

Residential list shows Arnold Alcock as living at 9 College Green. Still on the medical list, age 70, with three other practitioners.



Photo: Website: Gloucester Rugby Heritage

1973

Arnold Alcock, age 91, then living at 337B Stroud Road, Gloucester died on 7th November, leaving an estate valued at £154,231 with probate granted in 1974. The Birmingham Daily Post published a short obituary, stating that he had devoted himself to public service throughout his life and after his retirement in 1953 he became City High Sheriff. He had been a member of the England Rugby team when they played the first South African tourists in 1906. For 45 years he had been president of Gloucester Rugby Football Club, retiring from this in the 1968-69 season.