

ATTRACTA GENEVIEVE REWCASTLE

O.B.E., M.B. N.U.I., D.C.H.

Dr. Genevieve Rewcastle, who died on Feb. 18, was assistant medical director-general of the Women's Royal Naval Service during the late war.

The daughter of Mr. Bartholomew Candon, of Roscommon, she was brought up in Dublin. She studied medicine at the National University of Ireland there and at Galway, and, after graduating in 1921, she went to Sheffield as assistant school medical officer. In 1926 she married Mr. C. S. Rewcastle, K.C., but she continued her

professional work as a general practitioner and also as clinical assistant to Dr. Donald Paterson at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

When war broke out in 1939 Dr. Rewcastle became medical superintendent of the W.R.N.S. and later was promoted surgeon lieutenant-commander, R.N.V.R., in charge of the medical welfare of women personnel, a novel and interesting experience which she much enjoyed. In 1946 she was appointed O.B.E. for her services. After demobilisation she took the D.C.H. and held appointments at welfare clinics, where she was a great favourite with staff and mothers.

L. F. writes: "Besides her busy professional career and the cares of a household and a family, Genevieve Rewcastle accepted so many public commitments that she has been accused of being like the famous bird 'in two places at wanst.' Much of her time was given to work for her fellow Roman Catholics. From 1934 to 1938 she was president of the Catholic Women's League, an office which involved much travelling and public speaking. The Guild of St. Luke, St. Cosmas, and St. Damian, and many other societies valued her as a loyal and conscientious committee worker. For many years the National Council of Women had used her services as an adviser on the many health matters on which she was expert, and she was vice-convenor of the International Child Welfare Committee. Latterly she had done much-appreciated work as one of the four British representatives on the International Union of Family Organisations. One feels it is almost straining credulity to add that she was also a keen politician and had found her way on to the Westminster borough council, the L.C.C. housing committee, and sundry hospital committees. In 1950 she stood as Conservative candidate for Willesden. At the time of her death another constituency had selected her as their candidate.

"Gifted with exceptional charm of appearance, manner, and mind, Dr. Rewcastle touched life at many facets and adorned them all. Wherever she went she made friends by her gentle tact and tolerance, her unfailing good humour, and practical sense. It was characteristic that she fought her last painful illness with a cheerful courage inspiring to all around her."