

Mr. R. P. Jones, M.R.C.V.S.

By

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Robert Percy Jones was born on July 12th 1888 at Stockport. He graduated at Liverpool in July 1909 and, after a period spent as an assistant in a N. Wales practice. He went out to S. Africa where for a time he was a colleague of Mr. T. M. Doyle's. During the First World War he joined the South Africa Veterinary Corps and saw service in Tanganyika rising to the rank of Captain.

In 1923 he came out to Thailand and later became head of the Veterinary service. Following the change in the constitution in 1932, when foreigners were no longer permitted to hold executive posts in the Government, he became Veterinary Adviser to the Department of Livestock Development, a post which he held until his death on October 7th 1959. During the war he was interned with other British Nationals in Bangkok.

Throughout his long service in Thailand "R. P.," as he was known to his friends, worked hard to improve the disease position and to develop the livestock industry. The results of his efforts are clearly to be seen. He was largely responsible for planning the campaign which led to the eradication of rinderpest in 1949. He was well-known in Hogkong, Malaya and Singapore through his efforts to arrange the export of buffaloes and pigs to these countries to improve their meat supply. Since his arrival he was associated with the Veterinary School in Bangkok where, even on Sundays and holidays, he directed the clinic until 10 a.m.

Although living for so long in the Far East, "R. P." never allowed himself to lose contact with the progress made in Veterinary medicine in other countries. Copies of journal were always on his desk and often in the arm-chairs in his house. He kept himself very up-to-date both in the field of work in the Department of Livestock Development and in methods of treatment used in the small animal clinic at the school.

Like all veterinary surgeons of his generation he was keenly interested in horses and he did much to help the development of horse racing and polo in Bangkok. At the time of his death he still had a few ponies on his farm at Pak Chong.

"R.P." was greatly loved and respected by his Thai colleagues, young and old, in fact most of them regarded him as their "teacher" and second father. He was honoured on many occasions by H. M. the King of Thailand, his last decoration being that of Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand.

To those of us Englishmen who had the privilege of his friendship he was one of the kindest and gentlest of men and with his Thai friends and colleagues we mourn his loss.
