This month Cancer Research salutes the memory of two British physicians who made significant contributions to the epidemiology of neoplastic diseases during the first half of this century.

Janet Elisabeth Lane-Claypon (1877–1967) received her doctorate in physiology at the University College, London, in 1905, and in medicine from the London School of Medicine, in 1910. She was lecturer in physiology and hygiene at the King's College for Women (now Queen Elizabeth College), in London, and was the dean between 1916 and 1923. Upon her marriage to Sir Edward Forber in 1929, she became Lady Janet Forber.

Among her writings are analytical studies on the antecedent events in patients with cancer of the breast, comparing these with matched controls without breast cancer. This study, published as a Report on Public Health and Medical Subjects No. 32, 1926, of H. M. Stationery Office, London, is a model case-control epidemiological investigation of lasting value. She also analyzed the epidemiology and effects of treatment of patients with cancer of the uterus, lip, tongue, and skin.

Percy Stocks (1889–1975) was educated in medicine at the University of Manchester. After a few years as a medical missionary, he devoted his professional career to medical statistics and epidemiology. He became the chief medical statistician of the British General Register Office and was an influential member of international medical organizations. Stocks' contributions extended over the whole field of medical statistics and epidemiology and included several important reports on malignant diseases. In a 1933 paper with Mary N. Kam, he analyzed the role of habits and occupations in cancer, using a case-control approach (Ann. Eugenics, 5: 237, 1933). In a 1955 paper with J. M. Campbell, he compared the role of air pollution and smoking in lung cancer (Br. Med. J., 2: 923, 1955). A summary of his contributions is included in the reviews he published in Cancer [R. W. Raven (ed.)], Vol. 3, 1958, pp. 116–172 and 184–207.

The extent and importance of the contributions of Lane-Claypon and of Stocks to cancer statistics and epidemiology are well indicated in the British Empire Cancer Campaign's 1952 publication by W. L. Hartnett, A Survey of Cancer in London.

We are indebted to Professor Peter Armitage of the University of Oxford for his help in locating information and sources of portraits. The portrait of Janet Lane-Claypon is from the Queen Elizabeth College of London, and that of Percy Stocks is from Dr. Wynne Griffiths of Beaumaris, Wales. The photographs are dated to the early 1920s. Obituary notices appeared in the British Medical Journal, 2: 314, 1967, and 1: 216, 1975, respectively.

M.B.S.