- 24 Currie CT. Life sustaining technologies and the elderly. *BMJ* 1988;297:3-4.
- 25 Anon. Advance Directives (editorial). *Lancet* 1992;340:1321-2.
- 26 Cox DM, Sachs GA. Advance Directives and the Patient Self Determination Act. *Clin Geriatr Med* 1994;10:431-44.
- 27 Emanuel L. Advance Directives; what have we learned so far? *J Clin Ethics* 1993;4:8-16.
- 28 Bruce-Jones P, Roberts H, Bowker L, Cooney V. Resuscitating the elderly; what do patients want? *J Med Ethics* 1996;22:154-9.
- 29 Potter JM, Stewart D, Duncan G. Living Wills; would sick people change their minds? *Postgrad Med J* 1994;70:881-2.
- 30 Luttrell S, Sommerville A. Limiting risk by cur-tailing rights; a response to Dr Ryan. *J Med Ethics* 1996;22:100-4.
- 31 Ryan CJ. Betting your life: an argument against certain advance directives. *J Med Ethics* 1996; 22:95-9.
- 32 Stewart K. Discussing cardiopulmonary resus-citation with patients and relatives. *Postgrad Med J* 1995;71:585-9.
- 33 Ackerman TF. Forsaking the spirit for the letter of the law; advance directives in Nursing Homes. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 1997;45:114-6.
- 34 Bedell SE, Pelle D, Maher PL, et al. DNR orders for critically ill patients in the hospital: how are they used and what is their impact? *JAMA* 1986;256:233-7.
- 35 Institute of Medical Ethics Working Party on the ethics of prolonging life and assisting death. Advance Directives; partnership and practicalities. *Br J Gen Pract* 1993;43:169-71.
- 36 Dyer C. Living wills put on a statutory footing. *BMJ* 1998;316:9.
- 37 Singer PA. Disease specific advance directives. *Lancet* 1994;344:594-6.

Medical Anniversary

Sir THOMAS BRUNTON, 14 March 1844

Sir Thomas Lauder Brunton (1844-1916) was born at Hiltonshill, Roxburghshire, UK. He graduated MB at Edinburgh (1866) and published a notable MD thesis on digitalis when still a house physician at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In the *Lancet* of 27 July 1867, he reported his successful use of amyl nitrite in the relief of angina pectoris. This was his greatest single contribution to medicine. He became lecturer in clinical pharmacology at the Middlesex Hospital (1870), and after a year assumed the same appointment at St Bartholomew's.

He became an FRS at the age of 30, and delivered many named lectures at the Royal College of Physicians, including the Harveian Oration (1894). He delivered the Lettsomian Lectures to the Medical Society of London (1886), was knighted in 1900 and received a baronetcy (1909). He died in London on 16 September 1916. — *DG James*