Familiarity with asthma guidelines

4 Guidelines on the management of asthma. Statement by the British Thoracic Society, the British Paediatric Association, the Research Unit of the Royal College of Physicians of London, the King’s Fund Centre, the National Asthma Campaign, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the General Practitioners in Asthma Group, the British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine and the British Paediatric Respiratory Group. Thorax 1993; 48: S1–S24.

Medical Anniversary

NORMAN BETHUNE, 3 MARCH 1890

Norman Bethune (1890–1939) was born in Gravenhurst, Ontario, to an old Canadian family tracing its ancestry to Scots and French Huguenots. His grandfather had been a founding doctor of the medical faculty of Trinity College, Dublin, and his father was a Presbyterian minister. Like Osler he was born in a manse, and graduated in medicine in Toronto. He contracted tuberculosis so he decided to dedicate himself to its eradication by becoming a thoracic surgeon. He organised a mobile blood bank during the Spanish Civil War and then served in China during the Sino-Japanese War. He set up an emergency scheme to train the Chinese to become doctors in one year and nurses in six months in order to combat large wartime casualties. His selfless devotion to duty made him legendary, and several statues have been erected throughout China to ‘Pai Ch’ien’ (his name converted phonetically into Chinese). On 12 November, 1939 he died from septicaemia from a cut finger while operating. He is interred in the Cemetery of Martyrs in Shih-Chia-Chuang. A Norman Bethune museum is maintained in his birthplace. — DG James