Dr. Samuel Nathans, Anesthetist, Is Dead

OBITUARY

NATHANS, DR. SAMUEL

Dr. Samuel H. Nathans of the Watch Hill Road, one of Rhode Island's best known anesthetists, died last night at The Westerly Hospital following an illness of several weeks. He was 65 and the husband of Mrs. Jean (Shain) Nathans.

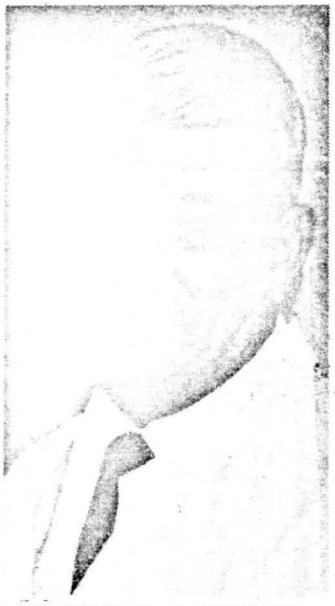
Dr. Nathans, whose medical career spanned 38 years, was a former chief of anesthesia at The Westerly Hospital and he and Mrs. Nathans were the former owners and managers of the Watch Hill Road Nursing Home, now Watch Hill Manor.

His funeral will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at the Sharah Zedek Synagogue on Union St. Burial will be private in a Boston cemetery.

Dr. Nathans was born in Boston Aug. 4, 1906, the son of the late Isaac and Mary (Blonder) Nathans.

He graduated from Boston Latin High School and from Harvard University and received his medical degree in 1933 from Tufts University. He interned at Fall River, Mass., General Hospital, and in 1934 opened a general practice in

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DR. SAMUEL H. NATHANS

Providence, during which he was an anesthetist visitor and in the medical outpatient departments of the Miriam and the Rhode Island hospitals in that city.

Dr. Nathans served two tours of active duty in the U.S. Army. He was a medical officer from 1935 to 1937 at the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Escoheag, and was recalled to the service a year later because of the threat of a world war. His second assignment ended when he suffered a coronary attack.

Between the two rounds of duty, Dr. Nathans had opened an office in Hope Valley. Following his second release, he returned to that community for a limited practice.

Dr. Nathans had specialized in anesthiology since 1945, after completing study under some of the leading authorities in that field of medicine. They included Dr. Robert Hingson at Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia, where he concentrated on the caudal method; Dr. Emily Rovenstine at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and Dr. Harold Griffiths in Montreal, Canada. He also had a 15-month residency in anesthesia at Harvard Hospital under Dr. Curtis Hickox.

Dr. Nathans succeeded the late Dr. Harold Kenyon as the head of anesthesia at The Westerly Hospital. He participated in all affairs of the medical staff and was particularly active on the building committees which developed the extensive modernization and expansion programs at the hospital in recent years. He was also a member of the staff of the South County Hospital in Wakefield.

He was affiliated with local, state and national medical associations and with various anesthesia organizatons, being a charter member and past secretary of the Rhode Island Society of Anesthiologists, and from 1956 to 1962 was the Rhode Island-Connecticut director for the American Society of Anesthiologists.

Dr. Nathans held membership in the Congregation Sharah Zedek and was a past president of the Westerly Lodge of B'nai B'rith. One of his main interests was photography and when his health permitted he was an ardent sailor.

Dr. and Mrs. Nathans acquired the former Tristam Babcock estate, located between two coves of the Pawcatuck River, a number of years ago. They converted the carriage barn into one of the residential showplaces of Southern Rhode Island, and made extensive improvements and alterations to other buildings on the property.

Dr. and Mrs. Nathans, as certified Rhode Island nursing home administrators, managed the 60-bed nursing home for five years. They disposed of the facility to Edacare Inc. of Boston, which operates a chain of nursing homes, in February of 1971.

Besides his wife, Dr. Nathans is survived by a sister, Mrs. Freda Shafrock and two nieces in California

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