

John Glaister Jr.

(1892–1971)

John Glaister, Jr. (1892–1971) was the second son of John Glaister Senior, an eminent Scottish professor of forensic medicine, and Mary Scott Clarke. He received his bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery degrees from the University of Glasgow in 1916. He joined the British army, serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Palestine. He returned to Glasgow in 1919 and started his private practice and the same year joined the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Glasgow as an assistant, working under his father. In 1925 he obtained his doctorate in medicine and in 1927 the degree of D.Sc. (doctor of science). In the same year, he became a barrister, lectured on Forensic Medicine to the Glasgow Police Force, and acted as medico-legal examiner and adviser to the Corporation of Glasgow. In 1928, Glaister replaced Sydney Smith as the chair of forensic medicine in Cairo at the University of Egypt and became medico-legal advisor to the Egyptian government. He returned to Glasgow in 1931 to succeed his father in the Regius Chair of Medical Jurisprudence at the university and held that post until 1962.

His most important publication, the textbook *Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology*, was initiated by his father, but Glaister, Jr. substantially revised it with the help of Dr. Edgar Rentoul. His other publications include:



Legal Medicine– 1922

Medico-Legal Aspects of the Ruxton Case-1936.

A Study of Hairs and Wools Belonging to the Mammalian Group of Animals, Including a Special Study of Human Hair-1937

Recent Advances in Forensic Medicine – 1939.

The Power of Poison -1954 and his autobiography, *Final Diagnosis* 1964.

As Medico-Legal Examiner to the Crown, Glaister worked mainly in western Scotland, but also did some work in England, most famously on the Buck Ruxton case. Over the course of his career, he was often consulted as a medical examiner, forensic pathologist, serologist, and expert on hairs and fibers.