One can speculate that, in the future, clinical examination may well become a less central part of the consultation, and clinical skills in this area of practice may wane. Use of newer modes of imaging has superseded or replaced many of the traditional routines of assessment by clinical examination. The precision of biochemical analysis of blood and other samples now provides more direct paths to diagnosis, as does endoscopy. The continuing pressures of limited time available for consultation often mean that the whole palaver involved in undressing, then dressing again, can reduce the time available for talking and listening. That then alters the character of the consultation. Will clinicians then feel less inhibition around exploration of patients' feelings and relationships? Will patients feel more at ease in expressing their feelings if they do not have to strip off? Will 'clinical' then lose its acquired and somewhat prejudicial meaning?

Philip Myerscough

Retired Senior Lecturer in Gynaecology, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK Email: p.myerscough657@btinternet.com

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- 2 Shuttleton DE. The Medical Consultation Letters of Dr William Cullen: the launch of a digital edition. *J R Coll Physicians Edinb* 2015; 45: 188–9.



In memoriam brings to the attention of Fellows and Collegiate Members the deaths of colleagues and friends. Obituaries paying tribute to the life and work of those whose deaths have been reported in *In memoriam* can be found on the College website: www.rcpe.ac.uk/obituaries

Dr B Asgher FRCP Edin

Born: 25.01.1935 Died: 07.12.2016 Specialty: General Internal Medicine MB Dhaka 1958, DTM&D L'pool 1969

Professor TH Bothwell FRCP Edin

Born: 27.02.1926 Died: 12.11.2016 Specialty: General Internal Medicine MB Wits 1947, MD Wits 1953, DSc Wits 1965, Hon MD Cape Town 1986, Hon MD Natal 1993, DMedSc Wits 1994

Professor CD Katsetos FRCP Edin

Born: 20.03.1958 Died: 21.03.2017 Specialty: Pathology MD St George's, PhD Bergen 2002

Dr NJ Macdonald MBE FRCP Edin

Born: 17.01.197 Died: 03.12.2016 Specialty: General Practice/Primary Care MB Edin 1961, DRCOG 1963 Fellows and Collegiate Members are invited to provide the Obituaries Editor (editorial@rcpe.ac.uk) with information that will enable us to write or commission obituaries. Self-written obituaries to be held in readiness by the Obituaries Editor will always be welcome.

Professor JFK Mason FRCP Edin

Born: 19.12.1919 Died: 26.01.2017 Specialty: Law and Ethics BA Camb 1939, MB Camb 1942, MA Camb 1944, DipChemPAth Lond 1950, MD Camb 1961, DTM&H 1962, DMJ 1963, LLD Edin 1987

Dr S Nariman FRCP Edin

Born: 30.07.1925 Died: 26.11.2016 Specialty: Respiratory Medicine MB Mumbai 1950, MRCS, LRCP Lond, MRCP Edin 1959

Professor DG Seymour FRCP Edin

Born: 27.05.1949 Died: 17.12.2016 Specialty: Geriatric Medicine Bsc Birm 1972, MB Birm 1973, MD Birm 1988

Dr PL Tiwari FRCP Edin

Born: 01.07.1945 Died: 01.07.2016 Specialty: Cardiovascular Medicine BSc Banaras Hindu, MB Banaras Hindu 1967, MD Banaras Hindu 1971