

OBITUARIES

WA PENMAN

Walter Andrew Penman, Physician: b.15.12.1927; d. 25.8.2003. MBChB Edin 1950, MRCP Edin 1958, FRCP Edin 1971.

Walter Penman was educated at Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh and at the University of Edinburgh. Following graduation, he held house appointments at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh and the Northern General Hospital, Edinburgh and worked in Norman Dott's Department of Neurology. Thereafter he acted as a medical registrar in Ayr and as a registrar to Chalmers Davidson at Leith Hospital, Edinburgh. He then held the post of Senior Registrar at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow.

Walter was appointed as Consultant Physician in Medicine and Geriatrics in the Isle of Wight but the call of Scotland was much too strong and he returned to be appointed to the post of Consultant Physician at Dumfries Royal Infirmary in 1963, an appointment which he held until his retirement in 1991.

There were difficulties for Walter in setting up the special interest of geriatrics. Some specialties took the view that they should no longer be dealing with over 65s while others took the view that these new type consultants were exceeding their remit by seeing patients under 65 and by admitting these under 65 patients to their beds and in Walter's case to Rheumatology. While things changed subsequently, Walter's handling of the situation was very advantageous to medical services in the region and to the welfare of the many patients he looked after in outlying geographical situations. He was responsible for providing proper geriatric facilities and turned around Newton Stewart Hospital in its neglected state in the 60s to a very lively, efficient organisation in the 80s assisted by his very able colleagues. This hospital eventually topped the league for the highest bed occupancy figures and the lowest patient bed costs in Scotland. He also shared an excellent working relationship in Dumfries especially with his colleague, Dr John Wilson.

At a personal patient level Walter Penman had a very kind and sympathetic approach at the bedside of the very ill patient, particularly when no medical cure was possible.

Walter was a very enthusiastic clinical teacher and was involved in the teaching of students from the University of Edinburgh who visited Dumfries. In addition to clinical teaching, visits to outlying hospitals gave Walter the opportunity to instruct the fortunate students in river and loch fishing!

He retired in 1991 but although retired he continued to

act as an examiner for the MRCP and PLAB examinations.

Walter was extremely fond of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and in 1998 became assistant Social Convener to the College. In that role he acted very loyally to carry out his responsibilities. Despite the distance he lived from Edinburgh and his deteriorating health, everything that he contributed was given with incredible enthusiasm and precision. Everyone who attended showcase events at the College will carry away the memory of his gentle, kindly and helpful approach.

Outwith his professional responsibilities Walter had a deep love of the countryside particularly in the realms of fishing, shooting and sailing and was expert in all of these activities. He also had a great fondness for his native city of Edinburgh which he visited as often as possible.

Throughout his life, Walter was dogged by ill health. Initially he contracted poliomyelitis which left him with much muscle wasting in his arms and legs. In 1991, he developed chronic lymphatic leukaemia and with unbelievable courage faced 12 years of a disabling, frustrating and often painful illness which marred his retirement and shortened his life.

Walter was very greatly supported by his family to whom he was devoted. His wife Anne and his children Shona, Andrew and Keith all suffered alongside Walter during this period of illness but gave him enormous support for which he was deeply grateful.

The funeral was private, the eulogy given by his life-long friend and best man, Tom Fleming. At the memorial service in Crichton Royal Chapel tender tributes were paid by his son, Andrew, and by Dr John Wilson, his geriatrician colleague of many years standing.

Walter had many attributes amongst which were integrity and loyalty to patients and colleagues alike and particularly to his family. All will miss him greatly especially those individuals who were his patients to whom he gave great skill and care in the pursuit of acting as physician and geriatrician.

MM LEES

WP SMALL

William Porteous Small, Surgeon: b. 20.01.1920; d: 25.03.2004. MB Edinburgh 1942, MRCP Edin 1950, ChM Edin 1964, FRCP Edin 1966, FRCS Edin 1974.

Bill Small was born into a medical family – his father had been a consultant in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He attended school at the Edinburgh Institution and Melville College proceeding to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh where he won the Pattison

prize in clinical surgery.

He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) in 1942 as a temporary surgeon lieutenant and, after a house post in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, served in the Mediterranean and the Far East on the aircraft carrier *HMS Attacker*. Bill continued in the RNVR and the Royal Naval Reserve until 1966, retiring with the rank of surgeon commander. In 1963, he was awarded the Volunteer Reserves' Decoration.

After the war, Bill trained as a surgeon in Edinburgh and London. He was consultant surgeon for a year at Leith Hospital before moving in 1955 to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh where he worked initially in the general surgical department and later in the gastrointestinal unit which offered combined care by physicians and surgeons. The main feature of the unit was the 'grand round' on a Wednesday morning, which had a well-earned national and international reputation for excellence and kindly care of patients.

Bill was a pioneer of surgical audit and also pioneered an anti-smoking clinic, well ahead of his time. He was also a great teacher and brought on generations of young GI surgeons. He retired in 1985.

He was married for 55 years to Tordis, and together they made the happiest of homes for their three sons and two adopted daughters.

Bill Small enhanced enormously the national and international reputation of medicine in Edinburgh and made very substantial contributions to the NHS and to wider society.

SH DAVIES

Samuel Howard Davies, Haematologist: b 11.01.1914; d 27.07.2003. PhC, MB,Edin 1952, MRCP Edin 1960, FRCP Edin.1963.

Professor John Shaw has sent this additional contribution to the recent obituary notice for Dr Davies:

The Journal prompts me to write.

'Noted for his many achievements and the time and care that he gave to all, with whom he met and worked the warmth of his personality and his generous spirit.'

Thus you describe him and there must be many like myself, who, working in the Department of Surgical Neurology in the 1960s and onwards, would want to concur.

I first met Howard Davies when, one evening I was assisting Professor Norman Dott in the removal of an extremely vascular tumour in the posterior cranial fossa.

The operation had gone on well into the evening and, despite Dott's meticulous techniques, we were increasingly faced with a 'more than troublesome' small vessel oozing over the areas of the tumour and brain, being manipulated. Rather unexpectedly and somewhat out of character, Dott suddenly announced, 'Give Doctor Howard Davies a call!'

I was surprised by the speed with which Dr Davies found his way down to the Western and into the theatre, and by his courtesy and enthusiasm despite the hour. His expertise was self evident, as he took samples, disappeared to the laboratory for a short while and returned to manipulate the intravenous lines and improve our field of operation for a successful conclusion. I don't recall haematological details. Did he mutter 'consumption coagulopathy'?

Undoubtedly, this episode led to increasing reliance over the years, by all members of staff, on Dr Davies, in problems haemorrhagic and haematological. At all times he displayed the same spirit, as outlined above, and many an enthusiastic discussion confirmed that this applied to all grades and not merely to helping out a professor!

The Editor has also been informed of the death of the following Fellow and Member of the College about whom very little biographical information is available. He would be pleased to publish a supplementary notice should further information be supplied:

SGF WILSON

Dr Sydney Gordon Forbes Wilson, Consultant Paediatrician: b. 06.01.1924; d. 16.01.2004. MB Edin 1947, MRCP Edin 1953, MD Edin 1960, FRCP Edin 1967, FRCPC.

Sydney Wilson qualified shortly after the war and saw National Service with the RAMC. He trained in Paediatrics in Dundee, London and Newcastle upon Tyne and had research experience in paediatric nephrology in the US. He was appointed as Consultant Paediatrician in Dundee in 1964.