

Obituaries

J.C. PETRIE

James Colquhoun Petrie: b. 18.9.1941; d. 31.8.2001.
President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
1998–2001.

With the passing of Jim Petrie the College has lost a great innovator, a tireless defender, a great friend and an outstanding President.

I came to know Jim in 1970, when I first arrived in Aberdeen, where he and Bertie Wood were lecturers in the department of the late Alastair McGregor – one of the foremost of its kind in Europe. His incredible drive and ability were evident then and were soon to be recognised, later that year, in his appointment as Senior Lecturer/Consultant in medicine and clinical pharmacology. Jim's contribution to both the Medical School and the NHS was very substantial. The University recognised this by a Readership and subsequently, in 1985, by a chair. In the hospital service he pioneered problem-oriented records against a tide of scepticism and was largely responsible for establishing evidence-based and rational prescribing. He disliked cant, loose thinking and sloppy standards which he strove tirelessly to remove – as, for example, in his work in hypertension. Jim could be forthright with an incisive criticism and he certainly did not suffer fools gladly. However, in over 30 years of friendship I never once knew him to be petty, mean or vindictive.

All these qualities were a sound foundation for his later work with the CSM and WHO, but especially for his six years' service to the College as the Assessor. It was here that probably his greatest achievement – and certainly that for which he will be very long remembered – germinated, namely the development of critical guidelines (SIGN). Here he also showed his extraordinary ability – through charm, drive and infectious enthusiasm – to get Colleges and other groups working together. When he subsequently became President in 1998 he very rapidly had the Edinburgh, Glasgow and London Colleges working together, closer than ever before. This he achieved by leadership, at presidential level, and the accord between himself and Colin McKay and George Alberti was one of mutual respect and genuine friendship.

But Jim put the same irrepressible drive and energy into the internal affairs of the College. Council meetings were a breathless experience and his sharp mind and ability to grasp essentials very quickly meant that nobody dared allow themselves to drift into a doze. He could be a hard task-master but the respect and fondness for him was evident in the concern of Fellows, Members and the College staff throughout his illness and at his death. Many made the long journey to the little chapel at Strathdon, full to overflowing, to pay their respects.

Jim packed an enormous amount into his busy life. In addition to his College duties (which sometimes took him abroad to Singapore, Hong Kong, Nepal, India, Africa,



Australia and elsewhere) he found time for the Grampian Health Board, the CSM, the Health Technology Board, the Scottish Health Services Research Unit, the GMC, the Academy of Royal Colleges and more. His fluency in French, born out of his early years spent in school in Geneva, facilitated his contributions in Europe and beyond in his work for the Council of Europe and WHO.

His great contributions were recognised in the award of CBE in 1996, FRSE in 2000 and an honorary D.Sc. I have no doubt that, had he lived, these honours would have been added to.

But Jim was always a man of his roots – in the North East of Scotland. He enjoyed his weekend retreat in Strathdon. He rarely took all his holidays but was always happy when skiing (which he did with consummate skill) with Xanthe and the children, all of whom became doctors to his great pride. Jim met the girl he was to marry when they were students together in Aberdeen Medical School and he would, I am sure, have been the first to say how greatly he relied on the support and love of Xanthe throughout his distinguished career.

Jim Petrie died tragically, just at the end of his most successful presidency, with so much still he wanted to do. But his achievements and influence will live on for years to continue benefitting patients, his younger colleagues and this College.

PWB

E. KUENSSBERG

Ekkehard Von Kuenssberg: b. 17.12.1913; d. 27.12.2000. MB ChB Edinburgh 1939; CBE 1969; PRCPG 1976–9; FRCOG 1981; FRCP Edin 1981.

The biography of Ekke Kuenssberg is an adventure story. Born in Germany, the son of an aristocratic German professor at Heidelberg University and a Protestant mother with Jewish progenitors, he began to study science at Innsbruck University in the early 1930s at a time when the Nazis were gaining ascendancy. As a competent skier, he used his spare time as a student to assist the escape, across the Austrian mountains by night, of those being pursued by the Nazi regime.

Later, he decided to leave Germany for England. He managed to obtain employment as a laboratory assistant in Cambridge, but his wish was to study medicine, and he wrote to the deans of all the medical schools in the UK seeking a student vacancy. The only positive reply came from Edinburgh, and he immediately travelled there by bus and managed to obtain an interview with the Dean of the Faculty, Sidney Smith. To Ekke's astonishment, he was accepted to study medicine at Edinburgh exempt from university fees.

After war service in the Army, Ekke rejoined the practice in Granton where he had begun work as a locum in 1939. He quickly gained an eminent reputation and as Senior Partner gradually built up one of the outstanding group practices in Edinburgh.

Ekke was a fine clinician and in 1961 he wrote a joint letter to the *BMJ* which drew attention to the possible neurological damage caused by thalidomide to peripheral nerves, anticipating the later revelations in regard to fetal abnormality in limbs.

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, Ekke's main activities outwith the practice were in the medical political field. He became one of the four negotiators of the GP Charter that transformed the whole organisation of general practice. Subsequently Ekke's principal energies were directed through the RCGP, and he was elected President in 1979.

Ekke Kuenssberg was one of the 'giants' of British general practice and he carried immense authority. He was, more importantly, a warm and charming colleague whose door was always open to those who wished to consult him.

He was always supported by his wife Constance, whom he married in 1939.

J.A.J.H. CRITCHLEY

Julian Arthur John Hall Critchley: b. 4.8.1950; d. 13.7.2001. MB ChB Edinburgh 1977; FRCP Edin 1991.

Professor Critchley died tragically following a road accident in Hong Kong. Following his houseman appointments, Julian Critchley was appointed Lecturer and Honorary Registrar at the University Department of Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1979. He became Honorary Senior Registrar there in 1983. Julian Critchley emigrated to Hong Kong in 1989 and took up the appointment of Reader and Chairman of the Clinical Pharmacology Department at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He also held the appointment of Consultant Physician and Clinical Pharmacologist at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong. The Chinese University of Hong Kong will be establishing an endowment fund for diabetes research in his honour.

R.W.H. SIMMONS

Ralph William Harvey Simmons: b. 24.5.1920; d. 9.4.2001. MB ChB Otago 1946; FRACP 1970; FRCP Edin 1976.

After house appointments at the Auckland Hospital, Dr Simmons came to the UK where he obtained the MRCP in 1953. He held junior appointments at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases and the Hammersmith Hospital. He returned to New Zealand to take up the appointment of Senior Physician in the Tauranga Hospital where he established the Cardiology department. He retired in 1986. He enjoyed a wide range of outdoor recreations including riding and skiing.

P.K. WONG

Poi-Kwong Wong: b. 17.3.1925; d. 27.4.2001. MB BS Malaya 1952; FRCP Edin 1971.

Poi Wong became a Lecturer in Medicine at the University of Singapore in 1957 and then undertook postgraduate training in Edinburgh and London. He was appointed Associate Professor in the University of Singapore in 1970 and later Professor of Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was also a member of the Singapore Medical Council. In addition, he held consultant appointments at Singapore General Hospital and St Andrew's Mission Hospital. He was an outstanding teacher and physician. His Christian faith was always evident and he was an elder of the church where he and his family worshipped.

H.C. STOTT

Hector John Stott: b. 19.11.1923; d. 9.4.2001. Scottish Triple Qualification 1946; MRCP Edin 1951; FRCPsych 1986; FRCP Edin 1994.

Dr Stott held registrar posts at Sunderland General Hospital and Cane Hill Hospital in Coulsdon before his appointment as Consultant Psychiatrist at the West Park Hospital in Epsom where he stayed until his retirement in 1988.

C. DAVIDSON

Chalmers Hunter Davidson: b. 15.10.1915; d. 5.8.2001. MB ChB Edinburgh 1938; MRCP 1947; FRCP Edin 1955.

After qualifying, Chalmers served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the UK and then in the Middle East. Always highly sociable, he became friends on the troopship with the young Quintin Hogg (Lord Hailsham), as well as future leaders of his own profession. After the war he returned to junior posts at Edinburgh and was later appointed as physician to Leith and Chalmers Hospitals. At Leith there was a wealth of clinical material from the slums, while at Chalmers there was more the literary and artistic elite, or 'county' connections of his wife, the artist Ursula Constable Maxwell. As a teacher he was appreciated particularly by postgraduates, many of them from overseas.

In 1961 he had published a paper, the first in the UK, on the post-myocardial infarction syndrome, together with M. Oliver and R.F. Robertson, both future Presidents of the College. He was a thoughtful and decisive clinician, but retired from practice aged 60 when visual failure began

to trouble him.

He had previously been much involved in the Scottish Arts Club and was a close friend of many writers of the Compton Mackenzie generation. Besides book collecting, printing and gardening featured among his hobbies. Unfortunately, these became increasingly limited by advancing blindness. Nevertheless, he maintained his intellect, his personality and his good humour to the end.

He served the College for many years as honorary librarian. He was a true bibliophile and collector, and engineered the acquisition of many rare books by the College. In 1971 he launched the *Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Chronicle*, the forerunner of *Proceedings*, which he edited for its first three years.

L. CROME

Leonard Crome: b. 14.4.1909; d. 5.5.2001. Triple Qualification 1934; FRCPPath 1963; FRCP Edin 1971.

Dr Crome was born in Dvinsk, Russia and came to Edinburgh to study medicine. When the civil war in Spain broke out, Dr Crome joined the International Brigade. In 1941 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in North Africa and Italy. He reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery. On demobilisation in 1947 he became Lecturer in Pathology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London where he became interested in the neuropathology of learning difficulty. In 1956, he was appointed Pathologist at the Fountain Hospital in London and later took over as Consultant Pathologist at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children. Dr Crome co-published the first comprehensive textbook of paediatric neuropathology: *Pathology of Mental Retardation*.

R.J. GROVE-WHITE

Robert John Grove-White: b. 1916; d. 22.2.2001. MB ChB Trinity College Dublin 1938; FRCP Edin 1969; FRCGP 1973.

Dr Robert John Grove-White was born in Dublin. A year after graduation he joined the Malayan Medical service and after Japanese invasion became a prisoner of war in the Changi jail. After the war Dr Grove-White worked as Senior Chest Physician in Singapore and Physician in charge of the Leprosy Service and was for a short period in charge of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore as Medical Superintendent. In 1958, Dr Grove-White left Singapore and entered general practice in Cirencester, near Cheltenham.

B.E.A. MAGILL

Betty Emma Anna Magill: b. 24.2.1918; d. 18.6.2001. MB ChB Edinburgh 1940; FRCPsych; FRCP Edin 1959.

Dr Betty Magill was born in Barrow-in-Furness in Lancashire. After house appointments at Edinburgh hospitals, Dr Magill did locum work in England before enrolling in the Royal Army Medical Corps. After demobilisation she entered general practice for a brief period and then decided on a career in psychiatry. Dr Magill was appointed Senior Registrar at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and then Consultant Psychiatrist at

Bangour Hospital in 1954. She was also an Honorary Lecturer in Psychiatry at Edinburgh University.

W.F. ANDERSON

William Ferguson Anderson: b. 8.4.1914; d. 28.6.2001. MB ChB Glasgow 1936; KBE; MD; FRCPG; FRCP Edin; FRCP Lond; FRCPI; FRCPC.

After house posts in Glasgow William Ferguson Anderson became Registrar at the University Department of Materia Medica and Therapeutics at Stobhill Hospital. He then served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in India and Germany as Medical Specialist. In 1946, he returned to Stobhill as Assistant Physician and Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Glasgow University. He went to Cardiff three years later and was appointed Senior Lecturer in Medicine in the Welsh School of Medicine and Consultant Physician at Cardiff Royal Infirmary. He returned to Glasgow in 1952 and took the post of Physician in charge of Foresthall Hospital and Advisor in Diseases of Old Age to the Western Regional Hospital Board. In 1965, he was appointed inaugural David Cargill Professor of Geriatrics at Glasgow University. He was successively President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (1974–6) and the BMA (1977–8). He was awarded the OBE in 1961 and was knighted in 1974.

E.L. CAY

Elizabeth Lorna Cay: b. 11.1.1931; d. 10.4.2001. MB ChB Edinburgh 1954; FRCPsych 1988; FRCP Edin 1988.

After house appointments at Edinburgh hospitals, Dr Cay became Registrar at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital in 1959. Two years later she became Research Assistant at the Department of Psychiatry at Edinburgh University and the Gastro-Intestinal Unit at the Western General Hospital. She was appointed Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at Astley Ainslie Hospital and Senior Lecturer in the Rehabilitation Studies Unit at Edinburgh University in 1975. After retirement in 1994 Dr Cay was Secretary of the RCPE Senior Fellows' Club.

H. WATSON

Hamish Watson: b. 26.6.1923; d. 23.5.2001. MB ChB Edinburgh 1945; FRCP Edin 1962; FRCP Lond 1974.

Dr Hamish Watson was born in Edinburgh. After qualifying he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as Senior Medical Specialist in West Africa. He returned to Edinburgh in 1948 and worked as House Physician and later Registrar at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. After taking over his parents' farm in Perthshire, Dr Watson joined the Royal Infirmary in Dundee as Senior Registrar in Cardiology. He also held an appointment of Tutor in Cardiology at St Andrews University. Later on in his career he started the first Coronary Care Unit in Tayside and became the world authority on the management of Ebstein's Anomaly of the heart. He was appointed Consultant Cardiologist at Ninewells Teaching Hospital and Postgraduate Dean at Dundee University. Dr Watson became a Fellow of the American College of Cardiologists in 1969. He served the College as Trustee from 1973 until 1998.