

Obituaries

D S ALEXANDER

Dr David Spens Alexander died on 6 August 1999. He was born on 26 April 1927 in Edinburgh and graduated MB ChB in 1950 at Edinburgh University. After his houseman year at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Dr Alexander joined the Royal Navy. In 1954 he took the post of Assistant Resident at Birmingham Children's Hospital and later he moved to Baltimore where he became Chief Resident in Pediatrics at John Hopkins Hospital in 1956. During his time in Baltimore he was involved in studies in hermaphroditism, growth hormone deficiency and diabetes. Dr Alexander continued his paediatric career in Kingston, Canada, where he moved in 1961. He later founded the Department of Family Medicine at the Queen's University in Kingston. This achievement was recognised by an Honorary Membership of the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1993. Dr Alexander became a Professor in Pediatrics at Kingston and in the 1980s he also held visiting professorships in Uganda, Guyana and Edinburgh. Dr Alexander became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in 1972. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1998.

A J AKHTAR

Dr Anwar Jamil Akhtar died on 10 August 1999. He was born on 25 July 1936 in Lahore, Pakistan and graduated BSc at Punjab University in 1956 and MB ChB at the University of Edinburgh in 1961. He spent the next few years as a resident in Edinburgh hospitals. In 1965 Dr Akhtar became Registrar and in 1967 a Research Fellow in Respiratory Diseases, Edinburgh City Hospital. Dr Akhtar then took the post of Senior Registrar at the Professorial Geriatric Unit, Glasgow University and in 1971 was appointed Consultant in Geriatric Medicine, Royal Victoria Hospital in Edinburgh where he stayed until retirement in 1996. Dr Akhtar was elected to the Fellowship in 1975.

B M ANSARI

Dr Behjat Mukhtar Ansari died on 11 January 1999. He was born on 16 November 1937 and graduated MB BS in 1963 at Calcutta. Dr Ansari developed an interest in paediatrics during his houseman years at Morriston Hospital, Swansea and Seacroft Hospital, Leeds. In 1966 he obtained a Diploma in Child Health at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow while he was House Physician in Paediatrics at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow. Dr Ansari moved back to Leeds in 1967 and took the post of Assistant Physician in Infectious Diseases & General Medicine at Seacroft Hospital. In 1969 he went to France where he spent a year at Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif as Resident in Haematology and was also involved

in research at the Institut de Cancerologie et d'Immunogenetique, Hopital Paul-Brousse, Villejuif. Dr Ansari returned to Britain in 1971 and took the post of Senior Registrar and Senior Tutor in Paediatrics, Department of Child Health, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff. In 1974 he was appointed Consultant Paediatrician at the East Glamorgan General Hospital where he was also Clinical Tutor and Post Graduate Organiser. At the time of his death he held an external professorship at the University of Glamorgan. Dr Ansari became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1990. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1979.

W M ARNOTT

Soldier, cardiologist, clinical scientist, academic administrator and internationalist, Sir (William) Melville Arnott, who died on 17 September 1999 aged 90, was a member of the distinguished generation of Edinburgh medical graduates of the 1930s who saw active service in the war, and then went on to create academic departments in universities outside Scotland.

Melville was one of the first full-time clinical professors in medical schools in England and was William Withering Professor of Medicine in Birmingham from 1946 until 1971. He resigned from the Withering Chair in 1971, the year that he was knighted, to take up the newly established British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiology in Birmingham in which he remained until he retired in 1974.

He was educated at George Watson's School and the University of Edinburgh from which he graduated with honours in medicine in 1931 and was awarded a Gold Medal for his Doctorate of Medicine thesis. In 1934 he obtained a first class honours BSc in Pathology. A member of the Territorial Army before the war he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1945 in South-East Asia (narrowly escaping capture by the Japanese), North Africa (including the Siege of Tobruk) and North-West Europe. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Territorial Decoration with clasp.

Melville was a supreme physician/cardiologist. In the early 1950s he assembled a team of young and extremely able clinical scientists, including Kenneth Donald who subsequently became Professor of Medicine in Edinburgh. Under his leadership the group made significant contributions to the patho-physiology of pulmonary and cardiac diseases. He was one of the first to recognise the importance of cardiac catheterization as a research, and later diagnostic, tool.

In spite of heavy administrative duties Melville insisted on taking his full share of clinical responsibilities, with ward rounds often occurring on Sunday mornings. He was a dedicated physician with an encyclopaedic knowledge of

medicine. He was a member of numerous national and international medical and scientific committees including the Medical Research Council and its sub-committees and the University Grants Committee. In 1957 he was the Sir Arthur Sims Commonwealth Travelling Professor of Medicine. He played a significant role in the foundation of the new medical schools in Salisbury, Rhodesia and in the Chinese University of Hong Kong and was awarded honorary degrees by both. In 1973 he was Senior Vice-President and Senior Censor of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Melville, who was appointed Professor of Medicine and honorary consultant physician to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in 1946, had a major role in the development of the new National Health Service in the West Midlands in partnership with Dr Christie Gordon (an Aberdeen graduate), the Senior Administrative Medical Officer of the West Midlands Regional Health Authority. He was one of the most senior members of the Medical Pilgrims and, until his health began to deteriorate, never missed their annual meetings.

A proud Scot, Melville could appear rather reserved on first acquaintance. However, once this reserve had been overcome, he was an excellent companion and witty raconteur. He was loyal to his staff and followed the careers of his former junior doctors with interest. His wife, Dorothy, to whom he had been married for 61 years, died several weeks before him. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1937.

J D BAUM

One of Britain's most distinctive paediatricians in the late twentieth century, David Baum died suddenly from myocardial infarction whilst taking part in a charity bicycle ride to raise funds for children affected by war and natural disaster - particularly those in the Balkans.

Born the fourth of five children of a Polish immigrant family, David was educated at George Dickson's Grammar School in Birmingham and was an undergraduate at the University of Birmingham medical school. After house appointments he started his paediatric training at Birmingham Children's Hospital and spent a brief period at the Middlesex Hospital as RMO before joining the department of paediatrics at the Hammersmith Hospital as senior house officer and then research fellow. He came under the influence of Professor (Sir) Peter Tizard who was developing the speciality of neonatal medicine at the Hammersmith and it was here that David's scientific and research interest flourished. He recognised the importance of thermal control of the newborn and invented a heat preserving foil sheet 'the silver swaddler' which is still used to protect vulnerable infants immediately after birth.

The core of the Hammersmith team moved in 1972 to the new academic department of paediatrics at the University of Oxford where Tizard had taken up the chair. The John Radcliffe Maternity Hospital was adjacent to the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research and it was here that David's further neonatal research and clinical work was undertaken. He turned his attentions to nutrition and particularly to maternal breast milk. His interests also turned to physiology and the carbohydrate disorders. He set up a multi-disciplinary service for children with diabetes: at this time many children with diabetes were seen by general

paediatricians in the hurly-burly of their general paediatric clinic and late twentieth century integrated care was scarcely thought of. Today's children with diabetes owe much to his far-sighted clinical and organisational skills.

The final visionary phase of his Oxford career came out of his concern for families of children with terminal illness. He promoted the foundation of Helen House, the first of many children's hospices in the UK and later became the founding chairman of the National Association for Care of Children with Life Threatening Diseases and Their Families. He was a patron of the Bristol Jessie May Trust which provides domiciliary support for such families.

In 1985 he was appointed to the chair of child health at the University of Bristol. The department had great epidemiological strengths (and he fostered their further development by encouraging new cohort studies, the centre thereby winning recognition by WHO) but he saw the need to develop a corresponding clinical academic base. Through the appointment of university and NHS consultants with promising teaching and research potential he led the development of the comprehensive tertiary care service for Bristol and the South West of England which will have its main base at the newly constructed Bristol Children's Hospital, due to open in the year 2000.

David had a long association with the British Paediatric Association, latterly the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). He was the second President of the RCPCH whose charter was granted in 1996 and embarked immediately on a programme of strategic thinking concerning the training, registration and continuing education of paediatricians at home and abroad.

With his family's origins it was inevitable that David would have an internationalist outlook. Early in his career he developed links with Thailand and studied infant nutrition there.

His particular concern was for the welfare of children caught up in conflict or other humanitarian or natural disaster. With the support of the patron of the RCPCH, HRH The Princess Royal, he established an International Task Force whose aim was to supply paediatricians to non-governmental and other organisations working with such children. He recognised the importance of their training and in the summer of 1999 a summer school was held in the University of Bristol to equip such doctors to undertake this work. The Task Force has already placed doctors in the field and will be a lasting memorial to him. His international commitment and contributions would have broadened substantially following his presidency. He was already influencing the development of European paediatrics and had been elected Member Correspondent of the Societe Francaise de Pediatrie.

To many David was a contained man: discreet, courtly with warmth, charm and wit. Twinkling eyes, a ready laugh and appreciation of a good joke were the characteristics. He liked good food, wine and cigars, hosting parties and participating in crazy cricket games. He adopted a punishing work routine but made himself readily available to colleagues, trainees and, indeed, anybody who sought his wise advice. Shortly before his death he had been elected to the General Medical Council and it was clear that he still had much to contribute to British medicine.

The backdrop to David's life was his Jewish faith. He disliked being away on the Sabbath and he was a regular worshipper at the Bristol Hebrew congregation. He made

time to involve himself in synagogue and regional Jewish affairs where his wisdom was valued. He was described by one of his obituarists as 'a proud Jew, a loyal friend and a true *menschi*'. He would have wished for no better epitaph.

David married Angela Goschalk, a painter, in 1967 and is survived by her and his four sons. Family life was so important to him - he preferred commuting from Bristol during his College presidency rather than staying in London overnight. He took great pride in the artistic and academic achievements of his wife and sons, all of whom have inherited his strong sense of Jewish religious and cultural identity. He was buried at Rosh Pena near the sea of Galilee where he had hoped to end his days.

G J DOMENET

Dr Jean Georges Domenet died on 12 October 1998. He was born on 13 November 1930 and graduated MB ChB in 1954 at Birmingham University. Dr Domenet stayed in Birmingham as houseman at Queen Elizabeth Hospital before joining the RAMC in 1955. After a brief spell as a trainee assistant in general practice, he returned to Queen Elizabeth Hospital as Research Fellow in Cardiology. In 1961 he joined Geigy Pharmaceuticals as Medical Adviser and from then on devoted his career to the pharmaceutical industry. He became the Head of Clinical Research at Ciba-Geigy in 1973 and then the Medical Director in 1980. Dr Domenet played a large part in the formation of the UK Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine and was elected to its presidency in 1992. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1994. Dr Domenet was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1993.

F ELAHI

Dr Fazle Elahi died on 2 January 1996. He was born on 5 January 1925 and graduated MB BS at Lucknow University in 1947. After graduation he worked as a demonstrator at the Pathology Department, Dow Medical College, Karachi until 1950. He then came to Britain where he obtained a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1951. On his return to Pakistan he was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery, Dow Medical College and in 1965 he became Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery. After his retirement in 1985, Dr Elahi devoted his time to planning and organising educational activities and was appointed Director of Medical Education, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan in 1972. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1990.

E M HELLER

Dr Elliot Maurice Heller has died recently. He was born on 15 October 1912 in Sarnia, Canada and graduated MD at Toronto in 1937 and MSc at the University of Pennsylvania in 1943. After service in the Canadian Army Medical Corps he worked at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary before taking the MRCPE in 1947 with cardiology as his special subject. On his return to Canada he obtained the Internal Medicine Specialist Certificate awarded by the Royal College of

Physicians of Canada. Dr Heller then accepted the post of Consultant Cardiologist at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and in 1953 he was appointed Assistant at the Department of Cardiology, University of Toronto. Dr Heller became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1951 and the American College of Cardiology in 1952. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians of Canada. Dr Heller was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1953.

B J LAKE

Dr Bernard Joel Lake died on 28 May. He was born on 14 May 1929 and graduated MB BS with Honours at Sydney University. After a houseman year at Sydney's hospitals, Dr Lake came to Britain for postgraduate studies and in 1955 passed the MRCPE examination. On his return to Australia, Dr Lake worked in the pharmaceutical industry, first for Riker Laboratories, and then from 1969 to 1972 for Beecham Research Laboratories. He then moved to Astra Chemicals Ltd. as Medical Consultant in 1972. At the time of his election to the Fellowship in 1982 Dr Lake worked as a Consultant Physician at the South Sydney Women's Hospital and Visiting Consultant Physician at the Repatriation Department.

M E SCHONELL

Dr Malcolm Edward Schonell died on 15 July 1999. He was born on 22 May 1934 in London and graduated MB BS at the University of Queensland in 1958. Dr Schonell gained the MRCPE in 1963 with respiratory diseases as his chosen examination subject. In 1970 he spent a year as locum for the Associate Professor of Medicine, University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr Schonell then moved to Australia where he took the post of Senior Lecturer in Medicine at the University of New South Wales. He was also appointed Chairman of the Division of Respiratory Medicine, St. George Hospital, Sydney and established a department of thoracic medicine and a respiratory physiology laboratory at the hospital. Dr Schonell became a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians in 1971 and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1977. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1973.