

Obituary

Manuel Lederman MB, BS, FFR, DMRE

Manuel Lederman, who died on 27 June 1984, was born in 1911 and received his medical training at the Westminster Hospital, where he won the Sturges Prize for clinical medicine and the Hanbury Prize for diseases of children. He qualified in 1935. His interest in radiotherapy was stimulated by Sir Stanford Cade, and his first appointment was that of resident medical officer to the Radium Annexe of the Westminster Hospital. Two years later he was appointed assistant radium therapist at the Royal Cancer Hospital (subsequently the Royal Marsden Hospital), where he spent the remainder of his career. His initial interests were gynaecological cancer and more especially head and neck cancer. He developed new techniques of irradiation of tumours of the head and neck using the newly installed telradium units.

Early in his career Dr Lederman developed an interest in the treatment of diseases of the eye and orbit by ionising radiation. He took charge of the x-ray Department of Moorfields Eye Hospital in 1941, remaining in charge until 1948, when all radiotherapy was transferred from Moorfields to the Royal Cancer Hospital. He remained as honorary consultant radiotherapist to Moorfields Hospital and established a flourishing joint eye tumour clinic at both hospitals. He pioneered many techniques of radiotherapy of eye conditions, including the strontium-90 plaque for superficial irradiation of the cornea and conjunctiva, introduced in 1954. He had a special interest in the conservative treatment of epibulbar melanoma; his final paper describing his experience of the treatment of these tumours over a period of 31 years appeared posthumously in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* last year.

He always emphasised the art rather than the science of radiotherapy. Nevertheless he had an unrivalled knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the head and neck, which he applied to understanding the origin and spread of malignant tumours, enabling him to tailor radiotherapy technique to the individual patient without the aid of the more sophisticated imaging and technology now available. He was a fine teacher. As he saw each patient in his clinic he would expound articulately and succinctly on the natural history of the disease before him and on the rationale of the treatment in use, usually to an audience comprising not only his own juniors and students but also visiting doctors from many parts of the world. He was in great demand as a lecturer and contributor to scientific meetings. His presentations were invariably carefully prepared, well rehearsed, and fluently delivered. In discussion at meetings he could be a potent adversary, quick to spot the flawed argument or the unsubstantiated claim. He rapidly built up a reputation as a clinician which attracted patients from many countries. After his retirement from hospital practice in 1977 his advice continued to be sought by colleagues and patients, and he remained in active practice until a few weeks before his death.

His talents brought him many honours in the field of

radiotherapy and oncology. The British Institute of Radiology awarded him the Roentgen Award in 1956 and the Barclay Medal in 1972 for his contributions to the *British Journal of Radiology*. The Royal College of Radiologists awarded him the Knox Medal in 1974 for a masterly exposition of the behaviour of head and neck cancer entitled 'The oncology of breathing and swallowing.' The section of laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine awarded him the Harrison Prize in 1976 for his outstanding contributions to the management of head and neck cancer. His professional standing was acknowledged by his election as president of the Section of Radiology of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1967, of the Section of Oncology in 1972, and of the Association of Head and Neck Oncologists of Great Britain in 1974. His generosity was shown by his endowing the Leah Lederman lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine in memory of his mother, and in his presenting the furnishings for the council chamber of the Royal College of Radiologists.

Dr Lederman was a splendid host. Many of his friends and colleagues and visiting doctors from abroad have enjoyed his warm hospitality at his home in Montpelier Square. He was a lover of art, and his home contained a magnificent collection of paintings. He will be sadly missed in the spheres of both radiotherapy and ophthalmology. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Vera, who was his professional colleague for many years. JMH

Book review

Color and Fluorescein Angiographic Atlas of Retinal Vascular Disorders. By DAVID ORTH. Pp. 411. £160.00. Williams and Wilkins: London. 1984.

This is a very well illustrated, comprehensive colour atlas of retinal vascular disease. There are accompanying fluorescein angiograms of high quality and, in appropriate sections, some excellent coloured diagrams explaining the pathogenesis of the various vascular conditions. Many of the photographs are accompanied by short clinical descriptions, which I found useful. However, there was little prognostic forecasting or follow-up data given. There is quite a lot of reduplication of the same retinal vascular conditions, and this, I think, makes the book too long. Its price puts it out of the reach of the majority of ophthalmologists, and not many ophthalmic libraries could afford to invest in it.

RONALD J MARSH

Correction

In the paper by W E Gillies and Anne Hughes entitled Results in 50 cases of strabismus after graduated surgery designed by A scan ultrasonography (*Br J Ophthalmol* 1984; **68**: 790-5) an error occurred on p. 794, last paragraph. The second sentence should read: 'We prefer to avoid recessions greater than 0.2 of muscle length . . .' (not 0.2 mm as printed). The 0.2 refers to a decimal estimate of muscle length such as is used in estimating cupping of the optic disc.



Results in 50 cases of strabismus after graduated surgery designed by A scan ultrasonography

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