Kenneth Fawcett, MRCS, LRCP, DOMS 1910–1974

Ken Fawcett died at Newbury on 3 December 1974 after several severe attacks of coronary thrombosis. He was educated at St Paul's School and on leaving school went to St Thomas's Hospital where he qualified in 1932. At that time he took an interest in ophthalmology and did a house appointment in the ophthalmic department at St Thomas's but he decided to go into general practice at Newbury.

Having joined the RAF volunteer reserve before the 1939–45 war he was called up for service just before the outbreak of hostilities and was soon posted to the Middle East. In 1942 there was a considerable shortage of ophthalmologists in the RAF and it was necessary to set about training suitable men who had already done some ophthalmic work. Ken Fawcett was one of the first to become an ophthalmic trainee, and he showed himself to be a most promising student. He rapidly acquired the art of refraction, and the ability to make accurate clinical observations. He had an amazing facility for paying attention to detail in the examination of his patients, and as a result of recording the essentials in case histories and giving explanations and reassurance

he inspired great confidence in those who sought his help. In short he became a first-rate clinician.

Unlike most doctors his writing was not only easily legible but it was amazingly clear and impeccably neat. There was nothing careless about his work – he was the sort of doctor who could aptly be described as dedicated to his job.

After the war, having reached the rank of Wing Commander, he decided to complete his training in Ophthalmology and did the resident post at what was then the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital (later the High Holborn branch of Moorfields) and took the examination for the DOMS, after which he returned to Newbury to take up ophthalmic work at the local hospital and in private practice. Later he became a consultant ophthalmologist in the Reading area and a member of the ophthalmic team based at the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading. He was a hard worker and his opinion was always sound. He was a fine golfer and tennis player in spite of having some weakness in one leg due to poliomyelitis in childhood. He was a good friend with a keen sense of humour and he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife and three children.

T. Keith Lyel

Arthur Lister, FRCS 1905–1975

Arthur Lister, who died on 21 March 1975, was born in 1905, a member of a family which had given much to medicine. He was collaterally related to Lord Lister; his father was a physician; and his uncle, Sir William Lister, who greatly influenced his life and was his 'beau ideal', was a surgeon at Moorfields and the London Hospital.

He was educated at Lancing and Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a student at the London Hospital where he soon developed his interest in ophthalmology. His early training was at the London Hospital under Goulden and Jeremy and he then became a resident at Moorfields. His outstanding ability was recognized by his appointment to the Honorary (Consultant) Staff of both hospitals when only 34 years old.

During the second world war he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was commissioned as a temporary Major in 1940, and in 1944 became Adviser in Ophthalmology, 21st Army Group (NW Europe) until 1945. From 1945 he was Adviser in Ophthalmology ALFSEA, with the rank of Lt-Colonel and he was demobilized in 1946. After the war he resumed his appointments at Moorfields and the London Hospital where he continued to work until his retirement in 1970.

He was primarily an unusually skilful general ophthalmic surgeon, but he was particularly excited by Barkan's work in gonioscopy, and its revelation of the structural abnormalities of the anterior chamber angle, especially with regard to infantile glaucoma. He designed his own operating gonioscope and developed a clinic at Moorfields

for the treatment of infantile glaucoma which achieved an international reputation. This aspect of his work became his great interest, and earned the respect of ophthalmologists in all parts of the English-speaking world, especially in Australia and New Zealand.

To the casual acquaintance, he was shy and reserved but those who worked with him, whether as colleagues, assistants, or students, will recall his warmth, his sense of humour, and above all, his extraordinary self-discipline. This was manifest in his meticulous care in diagnosis, his self-criticism, and his readiness to praise the work of an assistant which merited approval. He never, for one moment, failed to recognize his duty to a patient, whatever it might entail, and he undoubtedly drove himself to the limit in selfless dedication.

He was no blue-stocking, however. We shall all remember his vintage Lagonda, painted in British racing green, in which he would travel to meetings. He was a staunch supporter of the London Hospital Association Football Club, of which he was president. He had interests also in gardening, constructing a model railway, and collecting antique clocks. Those who knew him well realized that his real pleasures lay in his family and that it was in his home that he exchanged his reserved manner for a simple and kindly warmth which was utterly endearing.

Readers of this journal will be united in offering their deepest sympathy to his widow, Margaret, and to his family.

J. E. M. Ayoub