Barraquer Medal, 1971

The 'Ignacio Barraquer y Barraquer' Silver Medal was presented to Dr. Jorge Vasco Posada of Antioquia, Colombia, on July 9, 1971, at the Barraquer Institute, Bogotá, for his work on the modification of the circulation of the posterior segment of the eye.

Concilium Ophthalmologicum Universale

Annual Meeting, 1971

The annual meeting of the International Council and of the International Committee of Ophthalmology was held in London on April 20, 1971.

The subjects chosen for the next International Congress, to be held in Paris in 1974, were Diabetic Retinopathy and Metabolic Disorders of Childhood.

Two new committees have been added to the existing sub-committees on standardization of tonometers and dynamometers, contact lenses, information as applied to ophthalmology, nomenclature of ocular diseases, and automotive safety:
1. To standardize the testing of colour vision.
2. To quantify compensation after ocular trauma.

Obituary

Edward Beric Alabaster, 1893—1971

Mr. E. B. Alabaster, who died on July 13, 1971, at the age of 78, joined the staff of the Birmingham Children's Hospital in 1922 as consultant ophthalmologist, succeeding Martin Young, and served the hospital until 1946.

He qualified in 1916 and at once volunteered and joined the R.A.M.C., attaining the rank of captain and seeing service in Serbia and Salonika in the first world war. On his return he decided to specialize in ophthalmology and took the Diploma at Oxford in 1921. He was appointed surgeon to the Birmingham Eye Hospital in 1922.

As consultant to the Children's Hospital he became intensely interested in the treatment of squint and initiated the first hospital orthoptic department in Britain. Under his guidance and with Miss D. Jones as head teacher, the orthoptic training school earned a nation-wide reputation. He also devised his own original squint operation using a gold bar splint. He became an authority on this subject, which he took for the Mary Loisa Prentice Montgomery Lecture which he was invited to give in Dublin in 1937. He was also a founder member of the British Orthoptic Board and served for many years on its examining panel.

He excelled as a surgeon and was the first in Birmingham to adopt the intracapsular method of cataract removal: his work was a revelation of delicacy and precision, and he was ever enthusiastic in the pursuit of new ideas and surgical techniques. He was elected F.R.C.S.Eng. in 1948. He was a prominent member of the Midland Ophthalmological Society, of which he was President from 1939 to 1943, and a regular attender at the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress.

Although ill-health forced him to relinquish his appointment at the Children's Hospital in 1946, he continued his service at the Eye Hospital until 1958, having served there for 36 years. Even after retirement he continued in consultation and in industrial clinics.

Outside his work, Alabaster was a keen golfer and his swing was as perfect as his cataract sections. After his round he often enjoyed a game of darts. Unfortunately ill-health in his later years prevented his enjoyment of his leisure time. He suffered a leg amputation when over 70, but continued his work, in spite of this handicap, until a very short time before his death after a second operation.

He was at all times a delightful companion and colleague and his death, which will be keenly felt, is a loss to ophthalmology in the Midlands. Our sympathy is extended to his widow and his family.