Books received

Fundamentals of Ophthalmology. Edited by M. H. N. EMARAH. 1976. Pp. 433, 376 text figs., 22 tables, 60 colour photographs in 16 colour plates. Scientific

Book Centre, 6 Soliman El-Hababy Street, Cairo (no price)

Obituary

Sir Allen Goldsmith, KCVO, MB, BS, FRCS, 1909–1976

Everyone who knew him personally and many of those who knew him by repute will be sad to hear of the death of Allen John Bridson Goldsmith on 13 December 1976, shortly after his 67th birthday.

The son of a doctor, Bridson K. Goldsmith, he was born in India on 27 November 1909, and on the family's return to their ancestral home in the Isle of Man he was initially educated at King William's College on that island. Thereafter his career in medicine was brilliant. He entered the Middlesex Hospital, London, in 1928, graduated MB, BS with distinction in medicine and pathology in 1931, and, maintaining his high academic standards, became demonstrator in physiology, senior

pathologist and curator from 1937 to 1940. At the same time (1937) he was elected surgeon and pathologist to the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital and the Paddington Green Children's Hospital (1937–46). Being unfit for military service owing to tuberculosis, he joined the Emergency Medical Service (1939–45). In 1946 he was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, and on the amalgamation of the Central London with Moorfields Eye Hospital he was appointed surgeon to the Holborn Branch of that hospital in 1948, where he worked until 1958, when he retired to devote all his attention to the Middlesex Hospital, his spiritual home, which he served unremittingly and with affection, becoming a governor in 1957. Other hospitals whereon he served were the Royal National Orthopaedic and the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. He acted as the honorary secretary of the ophthalmological section of the Royal Society of Medicine (1941–3) and of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom (1950), becoming vice-president (1968–71); he was an examiner in ophthalmology for the royal colleges in 1948 and was also a vice-president of the Medical Defence Union. He was appointed surgeon-oculist to HM Household in 1952, receiving the CVO in 1962, and became surgeon-oculist to the Queen in 1965, receiving the KCVO in 1970.

With all these activities he conducted a large private practice. His thorough training in medicine and pathology made him a clinician of outstanding ability, a fact widely recognised throughout the profession. He had a remarkable facility for keeping abreast of recent advances in his specialty and was adept in applying them in his clinical activities; moreover, he was an unusually competent and successful surgeon. Withal, he was an eminently kindly and considerate person, at the same time gentle and completely honest. By his patients he was adored; to them he was not only a doctor but also an understanding friend. To his colleagues and on committees his quiet wisdom and solid principles combined with unusual modesty made him invaluable.

Unfortunately, throughout his life he was dogged by ill health, which curtailed his activities more than he liked. He was forced to retire completely in March 1976, when he went to his country home in Kent, and it is sad that throughout his retirement he was never well up to the time he died. His death is sincerely mourned both by his colleagues and by his patients. He married in 1936 Mabel Rosemary Elise Porter, the daughter of a doctor, and left one son and two daughters. To them and to his widow we all extend our heartfelt sympathies.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER