Obituary

O. M. Duthie, MD, FRCS

Mr O. M. Duthie, for many years consultant surgeon to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and Manchester Royal Infirmary, and reader in ophthalmology at Manchester University, died on 20 November 1977 at the age of 78.

Born in Manchester, Ogilvie Maxwell Duthie was educated at the Manchester Grammar School. On leaving it during the first world war he served in the Royal Navy as a sub-lieutenant. In 1921 he graduated MB at Manchester University and proceeded MD in 1924.

His ophthalmic career began with his appointment to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, with which he was to be associated and to which he gave loyal and devoted service for the whole of his professional life. He held in turn the appointments of resident surgical officer, registrar, assistant surgeon, and consultant. In 1948 he was elected honorary FRCS, and in 1953 he took charge of the university department, which had been expanded to 60 beds with its own operating theatres. Under his guidance much important work was produced by members of the department.

With his quick and alert mind, Duthie could make his mark on any committee. Brief and logical, he was always prepared to speak up for his beliefs, whatever or whoever the opposition. He was for many years a member of the board of governors of the Manchester United Hospitals and chairman of the medical advisory committee, and he was an original council member and former president of the Faculty of Ophthalmology. He was a regular attender at the meetings of the North of England Ophthalmological Society and a past president, honorary life member, and a former vice-president of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. But his greatest love was without doubt the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, at which he served on the council and as master, and his term of office as master included the jubilee session of the congress in 1959. As a member of the congress he will be remembered not only for the manner in which he chaired the meetings as master but for his sense of humour and the general friendliness he showed to all.

Mr Duthie was a pioneer of the intracapsular method of cataract extraction in this country, following the example of Dr Arthur Sinclair, of Edinburgh, from whom he learned the basic principles of the technique. He designed his own intracapsular forceps, and the technique he developed was sound enough to remain unchanged throughout his surgical career. A quick and skilful surgeon who did not believe in wasting time, he once told a senior colleague that he could perform 7 cataract extractions in an hour. He was also a good and observant clinician, and he published papers on glaucoma and other aspects of ophthalmology. Always helpful and encouraging to younger ophthalmologists provided they were keen and willing to work, he was willing as a colleague to give sound logical advice or a straightforward second opinion which it paid to heed.

In his student days he had represented Manchester University at lacrosse and was also a keen tennis player. Later in life he adopted golf as his relaxation, and frequently competed in the Ophthalmological Society’s meetings. Unfortunately, persistent back trouble prevented him from playing in his later years, but he bore this and his final illness with characteristic fortitude and cheerfulness.

One of the best known and respected of our provincial surgeons, his death will leave an irreplaceable gap in the ranks of the British ophthalmologists. Max had a tremendous capacity for hard work, and he brought such enthusiasm and dedication to ophthalmology that it was as much his hobby as his life’s work. To his many friends his passing may seem to herald the end of an era. He is survived by his wife, Jean, and 3 daughters.

P. L. B.

Notes

Diagnostic ultrasound

SIDUO, the Medical Society for Diagnostic Ultrasound, will hold its 7th International Congress for Ophthalmologists on 13–15 September 1978 in Münster, West Germany. The main topics will be fundamentals and experimental research, diagnostic ultrasound and oculometry, and modern treatment of unilateral aphakia. Residents in the British Isles may obtain registration forms and hotel booking forms from Professor D. Gordon, 2 Gooden Court, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3PZ. Date for applications is 29 September 1978. Application forms and further details may be obtained from Mrs J. F. Field, Microsurgical Course Secretary, Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD.

Ophthalmic microsurgery

The Department of Clinical Ophthalmology of the Institute of Ophthalmology will conduct a course in ophthalmic microsurgery on 25–27 October 1978. It will be a practical course concerning common intraocular surgical procedures. The fee is £80.00, and the closing date for applications is 29 September 1978. Application forms and further details may be obtained from Mrs J. F. Field, Microsurgical Course Secretary, Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD.