

Obituary

F. C. C. Schwerdt, MA, BM, BCh, FRCS

Mr F. C. C. Schwerdt, senior consultant ophthalmologist at the West of England Eye Infirmary, Exeter, died suddenly on 2 October 1983, aged 56.

Francis Colin Charles Schwerdt was born in Hertfordshire and educated at Winchester College. He went on to New College Oxford, and graduated MA, BM, BCh, in 1952. He served in the RAMC as regimental medical officer to the 3rd Royal Hussars, and on deciding to specialise in ophthalmology trained as a resident at Moorfields. Registrar and senior registrar posts followed at the Royal Eye and Western Ophthalmic Hospitals. He gained the DO and FRCS and was appointed consultant ophthalmologist to Exeter in 1965.

Mr Schwerdt quickly settled down to a very heavy programme of work involving clinics in Exeter, Barnstaple, and Tiverton together with domiciliary visits over this very extensive area of Devon. His immediate contributions to the development of the hospital were of great value, and he gave constant attention to the changes and expansion which took place during his years in Exeter.

Colin's outstanding characteristic was his interest in and concern for people. He read his journals but preferred to learn from discussions and meetings. For many years he regularly made what was then an arduous journey up to meetings of the Royal Society of Medicine, and he attended the Oxford congress and South Western Ophthalmological Society meetings whenever he could. He enjoyed teaching, and his broad-based clinical knowledge and phenomenal memory of his own patients, together with a gentle but firm insistence that all who worked with him should live up to his own very high standards, earned the respect of his juniors and indeed of all the hospital staff who were influenced by his kindly but firm counselling.

Mr Schwerdt came to Exeter with a special interest in retinal detachments, but was not by temperament a specialist. He was always interested to follow ophthalmology into the realms of other branches of medicine and insisted above all that technical skills should be related to patient care and not become an end in themselves. His evaluation of new techniques was cautious and thoughtful, but he kept well in touch with developments.

His death was sudden, though he had been unwell for some time and was obviously struggling to maintain his meticulous and unsparing attention to his patients. His conscientious application to his work had not allowed him for some time to follow the outdoor pursuits—fishing and shooting—which he had enjoyed; and his family, for whom Colin had a very deep love, and music were the relaxations which balanced his clinical preoccupations.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. G.L.C.

Notes

Metabolic eye disease

The Sixth Symposium of the International Society on Metabolic Eye Disease will be held in Moscow, USSR, on

14-18 May 1984 preceding the Seventh European Congress of Ophthalmology in Helsinki, Finland. The major topics will include (1) Cornea and sclera, (2) lens, (3) retina, and (4) viral and autoimmune metabolic disorders. Further details from Heskell M. Haddad, MD, Program Chairman, 9 East 96th Street, New York, New York 10128, USA.

Glaucoma study grants

A Glaucoma Group Travel Fellowship sponsored by Merck Sharp and Dohme will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1984. The award will be equivalent to £1500. The purpose of the award is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.

A Glaucoma Group Research Grant sponsored by the International Glaucoma Association will be available for a research project related to glaucoma, preferably clinically orientated, for 1984. The award will be equivalent to £2500. The grant may be used towards salary or project expenses or for buying equipment. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae with information on their research project and details of proposed visit (preferably with confirmation from the centre/s visited) to Dr S. Nagasubramanian, Secretary of Glaucoma Group, Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn, London WC1V 7AN. The closing date for applications for these awards is 15 June 1984. The successful candidate will be informed by August 1984.

Treatment course

A two-day practical course on the 'office management' of corneal and external diseases, and uveitis will be held on 7-8 June 1984 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco, California. Topics to be covered include ocular allergy, herpes, scleritis and episcleritis, dry eyes, endophthalmitis, contact lens problems, astigmatism, and uveitis. Further details from Extended Programs in Medical Education, University of California School of Medicine, Room 569-U, San Francisco, CA 94143, USA.

Special session for young ophthalmologists

During the 7th Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology (Helsinki, 21-25 May 1984) a novelty will be introduced—a special session for young doctors. This initiative has been taken in order to establish and further the communication between ophthalmic residents in the various European countries; compare and discuss different educational training programmes; stimulate the exchange of young ophthalmologists within Europe; and invite papers on ophthalmological topics. All European residents in ophthalmology up to and including the age of 33 years at the time of the Congress are invited to take part. Any reaction to this initiative and suggestions as to the programme should be sent to Kaarina Vannas-Sulonen, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Eye Clinic, Haartmaninkatu 4C, 00290 Helsinki 29, Finland.