

OBITUARIES

JOHN WHARRY DUNDEE OBE, MD, PhD, FRCP. 1921-1991

Dr A K Adams

John Dundee came into anaesthesia at the time when the specialty was ready for its most rapid expansion, both in knowledge and in practice, since the introduction of anaesthetics a century earlier. He proved to be one of those who made a major contribution to that expansion. After qualifying in medicine at the Queens University of Belfast, he trained in anaesthesia in Liverpool under Professor T C Gray. At once he showed his extraordinary energy and initiative, for the work on thiopentone which gained him his MD was done during the tenure of a very busy Registrar post in an understaffed hospital, and involved doing all his own analytical work in the laboratory. After nine years, including a year at the University of Pennsylvania USA, he returned to his home as Head of Department in Belfast and was appointed the first Professor of Anaesthetics there in 1964.

From that time, John Dundee became one of the leaders of the specialty. He quickly realised that clinical anaesthesia would only flourish if it were strongly grounded in the basic sciences, and his choice was pharmacology. Equally he realised that anaesthetists would only gain credibility within the profession by matching other specialists. Following his MD in 1951, he gained his PhD (Liverpool) in 1957, MRCP (London) in 1975, followed by his election as FRCP in 1984. But he was no mere boffin, also he pushed forward developments in clinical anaesthesia, establishing the first Intensive Therapy Unit in Northern Ireland, and becoming involved with early human work in hypothermia and cardiopulmonary bypass.

He realised too the importance of encouraging research amongst all his trainees, to ensure an enquiring and critical mind throughout their lifetimes. Like many professors, he was away often, but "The Prof's" return was soon felt, as he swept noisily through the department finding out how things had - or had not - progressed during his absence. He never expected anyone to work harder than he did, if indeed this were possible, nor would he accept any but the highest standards.

John Dundee was invited as lecturer and Professor to numerous centres in all five continents, and visited the USA annually for many years, whilst publishing extensively, mainly in the field of human pharmacology. In his retirement he turned to studying alternative medicine and carried out research into acupuncture, to the dismay of some of his colleagues.

He served on the Boards of both the English and the Irish Faculties, and was Dean of the latter from 1969 to 1973. He was Associate Editor of the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, examiner for both Faculties, and served his stint on numerous committees. He was elected to many Presidencies and Vice-Presidencies, and perhaps the one of which he was most proud was that of President of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (the equivalent in Dublin of the Royal Society of Medicine in London). This was symbolic of his own passionate belief in the all-importance of professional links between countries, despite their diversities. In the same year he was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with the award of the OBE.

As a man, John had a large and very positive personality, lively, enthusiastic and full of energy, often surrounded by laughter. He was fine musician, starting whilst a student playing in a dance band entertaining the troops in wartime, and subsequently becoming skilled as a church organist whilst retaining his affection for the piano-accordion. Privately, he was devoted to his family, and was an active Christian, having been an elder and clerk of session in his Church, as well as President of the Christian Medical Fellowship. He remained active in his retirement despite bouts of ill-health, and the prolonged illness of his wife Sally was borne with enormous courage by them both. They were ideally matched, and it was perhaps fitting that his death came only two weeks after Sally's, at the end of a church service while chatting - and he was a great chatterer - to the choir for whom he had so often played the organ.

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Dr S D DALAL

Dr A K Mathur

Sashichandra Dhirajlal Dalal, who passed away peacefully on 19th April 1991 was born on 16th April 1923 into the Jain family.

He came to England in 1971 to continue his career in anaesthetics. After finishing his secondary education he gained a scholarship to join Seth G.S.Medical College, Bombay and qualified MB BS in 1947 attaining a gold medal in Medicine. Before taking up house jobs he offered his services to the care of refugees as a result of the partition of India, at a refugee camp in Lahore.

Continuing his career in medicine, he passed his MD in Medicine in 1950 from Bombay. In 1952 he moved to Tanganyika and was an assistant surgeon with the Ministry of Health, Government of Tanganyika until 1957. From 1957 to 1962 he was a medical officer. The duties of an assistant surgeon and medical officer included performing surgery and giving anaesthetics. He found administering anaesthetics interesting and more challenging than the surgery, which he took seriously. He was awarded a WHO Fellowship in Anaesthesia and he spent a year in Copenhagen where he obtained the Diploma in Anaesthetics in 1962. On his return he took up anaesthesia full-time and was appointed Medical Officer, Special Grade from 1962 to 1964. In 1964 the Government of Tanzania appointed him Specialist Anaesthetist. In 1967 he was appointed Consultant Anaesthetist to HM Aga Khan Hospital, Dar-es-Salam. He was Secretary of the British Medical Association in Tanganyika, and at independence became Secretary/Treasurer of the Tanzania Medical Association.

In 1971, the changing political climate prompted his family to move to the UK, where his children were in boarding school. He took a registrar post in St Albans Hospital whilst he passed the FFA in 1973. He was appointed Senior Registrar at the North Middlesex Hospital and in 1974 became a Consultant Anaesthetist. He was Chairman of the Division of Anaesthetics and Faculty Tutor.