

**DR OSWALD PETER DINNICK FRCA
AN APPRECIATION**

Oswald Peter Dinnick, affectionately known as OPD, died suddenly on September 15th after suffering a major stroke. He was born in Cornwall where his father was a surgeon. He maintained this connection, and at one time was President of the South West Region Society of Anaesthetists. He was educated at University College School, and the Middlesex Hospital, qualifying just before the outbreak of the war in 1939. By 1940 he had obtained the DA, then the only professional qualification in anaesthesia. That same year, during the 'blitz' he became the senior of only two resident anaesthetists. His junior later commented: 'we worked hard, and of course surgery was much quicker in those days'. He served as a specialist anaesthetist in the Royal Air Force in North Africa, and Italy, where he met his wife, Margaret. At the end of the war he was a Squadron Leader, and returned to be appointed to the Consultant staff of the Middlesex Hospital, Drs Crampton and Apperley having retired. His referee was Air Commodore Robert Macintosh.

When Bernard Johnson died suddenly at the early age of 54, Peter became Senior Anaesthetist at the early age of 42, and for most of the next 23 years ran what was a very happy and successful anaesthetic department. In addition to this he was a busy clinical anaesthetist, on one occasion anaesthetising Sir Winston Churchill when he broke his hip. He also found time to be active in the Association of Anaesthetists, which he served as Vice President; he was awarded the Pask Certificate, and was elected an honorary Fellow. He was also President of the Anaesthetic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Peter was a car enthusiast, on one occasion driving to Stuttgart to have his Mercedes serviced. Later, he drove a pre-war Bentley. He always had a screwdriver in his breast pocket to come to the aid of hapless colleagues whose engines were giving trouble in the hospital car park.

He served for many years on British, European and International Standards Committees which have contributed so much to greater safety, and which gave him a wide circle of friends. He was interested in the history of anaesthesia, and wrote papers on Tomes, the first dentist on the Middlesex staff, who gave the first anaesthetics there in 1847, and on his teachers at the Middlesex - 'Daddy' Crampton, 'Pop' Idris and Raymond Apperley. He was a founder member of the History of Anaesthesia Society and read several papers at its meetings. One of his early papers was as co-author of the confidential enquiry into morbidity and mortality, appearing in *Anaesthesia*.

He put down his roots in the village of Empshott, Hampshire, where he had his country home well before retirement, and was active in his local church, as church warden, was on the parish council and was a member of the Deanery Synod of the Diocese of Portsmouth. *'Ave atque Vale'*

WKP
PJB