

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.

Sashi was a mild-mannered man; throughout his professional life in East Africa and in England he was much sought after, not only because he was a good clinician, but because of his reassuring and compassionate manner. He was always generous of himself, his time and his ideas. He gave counsel not only on professional matters, but also provided succour in personal matters. As a thinker he was struck with awe and wonder on contemplating the mysteries and complexities of our universe. He always reminded us that as anaesthetists we have somewhat enlarged our modest island of understanding, which is surrounded by a huge ocean of ignorance. He found it reprehensible to believe that God in ~~some~~ way is different for different religions. Arrogance of certainty in science and religion, he disliked most. He did not call himself an atheist, but an anti-revelationist, a humanist.

He was a member of several charitable organisations and supported many others. He was also a founder member of the Lions Club of Enfield.

He married Vatsla in 1951, architect of his domestic felicity and mastermind behind his achievements and enchanted bridge and tennis evenings. She survives him, with their daughters Sandhya and Shree, son Gautam a partner in Peat Marwick and Mackintosh, and three grandchildren, Adam, James and Kamal.