

## OBITUARY

### G E Hale Enderby

George Edward Hale Enderby, Consultant Anaesthetist at the Burns and Plastic Surgery Unit at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead for nearly 30 years, and best known for his original work in developing hypotensive anaesthesia, died on 30 December 2003 at the age of 88.

He was born on June 9 1915 at Boston, Lincolnshire, the son of the local optician, and was educated at Boston Grammar School and Kingswood School, Bath. In 1934 he was awarded a scholarship to study Medicine at St. John's College, Cambridge, and his clinical studies were completed at Guy's Hospital in London.

At the outbreak of the war he joined the emergency medical service, initially at Guy's, and then at Pembury Hospital in Kent, to where much of the work from Guy's was moved after it was bombed. It was at Pembury that he took up anaesthesia, and shortly after, he moved to Sir Harold Gillies' Unit at Rooksdown House, Basingstoke, where for the rest of the war he worked alongside the surgeons repairing injured and burned servicemen.

At the end of the war he continued to work at Rooksdown House, but also took sessions at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, and the Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital. In 1951 he moved to the Plastic Surgery and Jaw Injuries Unit at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, which had been established at the outbreak of the war by Gillies' nephew, Archibald McIndoe.

He had already published his first paper on hypotensive anaesthesia in 1950, and the surgical demands of McIndoe for a bloodless field gave him the ideal opportunity to develop this research. His technique, using a combination of ganglion blocking agents, head-up tilt and positive end-expiratory pressure was later enhanced with the use of halothane and beta blocking agents, and by the end of his career he was able to report on his experience of over 25,000 cases.



It is remarkable that before the modern era of anaesthetic monitoring, he recognised the need to measure the blood pressure accurately and continuously at low systolic pressures. The mercury sphygmomanometer satisfied neither of these requirements, and so he reintroduced the aneroid oscillotonometer, a device that had been largely forgotten, and was able to detect the Korotkov sounds at systolic blood pressures below 60 mmHg. He also devised a technique whereby the cuff could be left inflated for several minutes to give a continuous indication of both the pulse and the blood pressure. Other innovations of equipment that he introduced included a tapered reinforced endotracheal tube and one of the first scavenging expiratory valves, both of which bore his name.

Hale Enderby's pioneering work on hypotensive anaesthesia gained him an international reputation, and in addition to over 25 papers on the subject he contributed a chapter to the *Textbook of Anaesthesia* edited by Gray, Nunn and Utting. Finally in 1984 he edited his own book, *Hypotensive Anaesthesia*, which remains to this day the authoritative work on the subject. He travelled widely, lecturing in many countries, and in 1963 he invited Professor James Eckenhoff from Philadelphia to East Grinstead. Together with his team of researchers they were able to add considerably to the scientific knowledge of the technique.

He combined his NHS work at East Grinstead with a busy private practice in London, where he worked with many of the eminent surgeons of the day. In 1976 he became an examiner for the Final Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists, and a year later was elected to the Board of the Faculty on which he served until 1983, and was awarded the Faculty Gold Medal. He was elected President of the Anaesthetic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1981, and was awarded an RSM Medal. He was also a keen Freemason, being a founder member of the John Snow Lodge for anaesthetists.

He was an active sportsman from an early age, and was captain of his College Athletics Club at Cambridge. He played tennis to a very high standard in his early years, but it was golf that was his major sporting interest throughout his life, and for which he is remembered by many of his colleagues. He was a member of the Royal Ashdown Golf Club, and the Medical Golfing Society, of which he was Captain in 1963 and President in 1972-3. In 1980 he presented a challenge trophy, the Enderby Plate, for which the staff at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, compete every year.

Hale Enderby was a kind, gentle and distinguished man (earning the nickname of 'The Duke' amongst staff and trainees), and his easy manner gained him many friends throughout the world. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, whom he married in 1940, three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Chris Barham**