

## OBITUARIES

**Bryan Ogle Scott**

John Simpson

Former director and consultant physician in rheumatology and rehabilitation Oxford (b 1920; q Manchester 1944; MRCS Eng, DPhysMed Eng, MA Oxf), d 28 June 2012

Bryan Ogle Scott's medical career in rehabilitation medicine was highlighted for all who knew him by his intuitive insight into the nub of the problems facing those who were under his care. Throughout his long life he had the knack of melding the care of his patients with personal touches that often showed remarkable ability to provide the "extra mile" that patients who were in pain or whose troubles had hitherto merely had a textbook diagnosis came to regard as their salvation.

His early schooling and medical training were dogged by monetary and family complications through Nottingham, Manchester, and London Universities. He started as a surgeon towards the end of the war at Derby Royal Infirmary, then at Stourbridge and in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1948. When his career moved away from surgery after an allergic skin complaint, he switched to medicine and never looked back.

After spells at the London Hospital and St Thomas' he moved to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford with Eddie Mason, where he stayed for 33 years, working in rheumatology and rehabilitation.

He was a divisional representative of the British Medical Association for 20 years and was made a fellow in 1992. With his colleagues he produced an annual newsletter for the Oxford division, highlighting the often complex results of the motions from the annual representatives meeting. He was perhaps partly

responsible for bringing social workers into a more controlled career structure after the shortcomings of the Maria Colwell affair in 1973 (7 year old Maria died at the hands of her stepfather).

He was a devoted father and husband to his three sons and Heather, his wife, a speech therapist whom he tended with enormous assiduity during her final years in Abingdon. He then moved to a care home in Plymouth to be near his eldest son. There he was still doing good work up to the time of his final stroke, by attempting, with the approval of the owner of the home, to regularise and codify the role of the carers. He was trying to give them pride in their profession by instituting a code of conduct and a certificate of competence, and by allowing the teaching of and the undertaking of caring procedures that had been the exclusive remit of nurses. Above all he was trying to encourage a regard and respect, both of and by carers, for their essential role in the life of many disabled and superannuated patients. To this end he was keen to enlist the aid of the Members of Parliament of both Plymouth and Witney, sadly without any response other than the formulaic "working together to review the options available to us." He then approached the Prince of Wales and the local television station, with rather more encouraging results. His contributions to physical medicine may continue to benefit the lives of all of us.

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