
CONFERENCE REPORT

Association for the Study of Medical Education

ASME met for its annual conference in Cambridge this year, in conjunction with son of ASME—AMEE, the Association for Medical Education in Europe. Dr John Bennison attended as College representative on ASME Council, and sends us this report.

CHURCHILL College proved a most hospitable home for some 200 delegates, several from outside Europe. There was a particularly strong representation from Scandinavia, the Low Countries and France, as well as Scotland and East Anglia.

The theme was *Motivation for Learning*, at all stages, and a number of distinguished speakers presented summaries of their experiences. Especially noteworthy in your delegate's opinion were Professor Moshe Prywes, from Israel, Professor d'Ivernois from Bobigny and Dr Seim from Bergen. Dr Michael Parry, as usual very enthusiastic about our College initiatives, and

Professor Ronald Harden spoke clearly and well from nearer home. Weight was lent to the proceedings by several senior delegates from WHO, notably Dr Manrique de Lara, whose brief is medical education in Europe, no less. As was appropriate for an organisation (AMEE) whose President is Professor Walton from Edinburgh, the most valuable time was spent in our multinational groups. The English of our visitors was, as ever, a rebuke to many of us.

Some questions remain. ASME has been, so far, very heavily committed to undergraduate education. There were very few representatives from the Uni-

versity Departments of General Practice present, and none of our more prestigious professors. It was clear from the Conference that in all the countries represented, early and continued experience in clinical practice in the community is very valuable, and welcomed more and more by the students themselves. We must, in our College, increase our commitment to ASME in the undergraduate field for this reason, and also give them more support for their efforts in continuing education for all doctors. There were repeated tributes from many countries to the College for what it had done in improving the standing of general practice and in its contribution to general medical education. We must not let things rest there. The enthusiasm of the students who had come from the Netherlands and Sweden particularly was heartening. It was a great pity that there were none from the UK.

The social arrangements included a quintet playing madrigals, old and new, at the Conference Dinner, and a concert from the Academy of Ancient Music in the Senate House.

ASME meets next year in Cardiff, AMEE in Prague. I hope to see you there.

JOHN BENNISON
General practitioner, Bishop's Stortford

OBITUARY

R. A. Murray Scott, MA, MD, FRCGP

ROBERT Alastair Murray Scott died peacefully in Lymington Hospital on 11 September. He was born in Newcastle in 1900, the son of a family doctor. He was educated at Leeds Grammar School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and finished his medical studies at Leeds University.

He joined his father in general practice in 1925 and devoted his life to the development of good general practice. His concept of continuing care by a physician who knew all the family led him to promote the aims of the College with enthusiasm and vigour. He was a founder member and held every office on the Yorkshire Faculty Board, representing the Faculty at Council for several years and being elected chairman

of the Undergraduate Education Committee. He was appointed lecturer in General Practice at the Leeds Medical School and was for twenty years medical officer to the then Yorkshire Penny Bank. After forty years in practice in Leeds he retired to Lymington and became honorary archivist to the College—which he himself described as no easy task.

Before the inception of the National Health Service, Dr Scott with two partners developed the first combined general practice premises in Leeds. Perhaps his most outstanding contribution to scientific medicine from a general practice base was his treatment of sixty patients with dicoumarol. His old university, Cambridge, awarded him a doctorate for this thesis in 1950.

During the war he served as a major with the RAMC with a field ambulance

attached to the Brigade of Guards. He was in the retreat through Dunkirk and was offered the Military Cross which he declined. In the later years of the war he served under Lord Horder on the National Council and also chaired the Hospital Dietetic Council of the Leeds Regional Board.

Among his many activities, he shared with his wife a love of sailing. He was a member of the Royal Lymington Yacht Club, and chairman of the Leeds branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society. In semi-retirement he developed his hobby of cabinet making and repairing antique furniture, and raised over £1,000 for the Save the Children Fund by this hobby.

His zest and energy for life and being busy was curbed in his later years and he bore the immobility and frustration with great patience. His life was inspired by Christian principles and was in the highest traditions of the family doctor. It can be epitomised in Christ's teaching, "I was sick and ye visited me".

He is survived by his wife Babs, son Ian and daughter Janet.

DOUGLAS INCH