

work pattern of a typical general practitioner, who had had a typical training, and considered his response to the expected pressures in his consulting room.

He noted the large degree of overlap between the problems presented to general practitioners and the problems presented to social workers, but made a plea for the general practitioner remaining primarily a safe and competent front-line physician.

### Discussion

Regular discussion was held after all the papers. The second half of the afternoon on the second day was devoted entirely to general discussion. The tranquil, almost cosy air of co-operation between the two disciplines was temporarily punctured during the closing session by Dr John Stevens, General Practitioner, Aldeburgh, who underlined the traditional dichotomy

between general practitioners and social workers in an effective and entertaining way.

Like most conferences, much of the most important work took place out of hours, and all the guests were invited to a most entertaining evening in the country outside Dundee, where a great many ideas were exchanged.

Professor Batchelor and Professor Knox are to be congratulated on an imaginative and unusual idea and for organizing, entirely on their own initiative, a most valuable conference.

JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

### References

- Illich, I. (1975). *Medical Nemesis*. London: Calder and Boyars.  
Robinson, D. (1971). *The Process of Becoming Ill*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

---

## OBITUARY

---

### David Kyle, OBE, MA, MB, B.CHIR, FRCGP

With the death of Dr David Kyle on 9 December 1976 at the age of 68 the College has lost one of its founder members.

David Kyle was born on 9 August 1908. His father was a general practitioner, but he did not decide to study medicine until he entered St John's College, Cambridge as a classical scholar; he had previously been a scholar at Shrewsbury. He went on to become a university scholar at St Mary's Hospital, where for several years he edited the *St. Mary's Hospital Gazette*. His lucid and elegant prose style owed much to his classical background and editorial experience.

He qualified LMSSA in 1933 and MB B.CHIR in 1934 and held appointments in ophthalmology, surgery, and medicine at St Mary's, acting as RSO in 1934. He then entered general practice in Brecon and almost immediately became a principal on the death of his senior partner, being appointed surgeon to the Breconshire War Memorial Hospital and School Medical Officer to Christ's College. Much to his disappointment his request for release for service with the armed forces in 1939 was repeatedly refused, and throughout the war he bore the brunt of surgical work in Brecon.

He was an active member of the BMA and was Chairman of the North Glamorgan and Brecknock Division in the post-war period. He became a foundation member of the College of General Practitioners and was elected a member of the first Council of the College in 1954. From 1955 to 1961 he was Chairman of the Welsh Faculty Board and was elected Provost in 1962. He was

elected FRCGP in 1969, and in 1971 he was appointed OBE for services to general practice.

His extensive writing included the chapters on "Abdominal Swellings" and "Surgery" in the *Encyclopaedia of General Practice* in 1965. This was followed by a textbook of minor surgery in 1968 and "The Contribution of a General Practitioner Hospital", which appeared in the *BMJ* in 1971. In the past four years he contributed several notable "personal views" to that journal. He remained emphatic that a combination of general-practice and hospital work was essential for a true renaissance of general practice: the preservation of Brecon Hospital intact against the various threats of closure in the early 1960s was largely due to his efforts, and the active policy continued in the hospital under his leadership. In the formation and development of the group practice in Brecon his experience and skill in negotiation and debate were of the utmost importance.

He had wide interests outside his work, which included natural history, entomology, at which he was an expert, and gardening, where he was a regular winner at the Brecon show. However, a factual account does not give a true impression of that unique combination of great intellect, rare skill, and delightful personality which produced a doctor who would have been distinguished in any branch of medicine to which he turned his hand. The College was fortunate to have been founded by such men as David Kyle. He is survived by his wife and two sons, one of whom is a general practitioner. To them our sympathy is extended.

A. J. M. CAVENAGH