

had a harsh word for anyone and always had a sunny outlook on life. He led a team of obstetricians and gynaecologists to China in November 1975, a visit marked by the goodwill and respect he generated from his Chinese hosts.

When Timothy passed away on 29 August 1977, after a short illness bravely borne, something went out of the lives of the friends and colleagues who knew him well. He leaves behind his wife, Janet, his daughters, Angeline and Belinda, and sons, Calvin and Gavin. He was always fresh, frank, and friendly and this is how many will remember him.

E. K. KOH

Professor Ante Vuletić, MD

A number of British general practitioners have visited the Abdrija Stampar Institute of Public Health at Zagreb. We went to learn.

It was Professor Vuletić who devised and promoted the three-year training course for general practice which started in Zagreb in 1961. This preceded all earliest vocational training schemes and courses in this country, except for the one at Inverness. The background was similar—diminishing recruitment to general practice, low standards, status, morale, and remuneration among general practitioners—and, in addition, there was a flight of doctors to towns and cities, a particularly serious problem in Yugoslavia, which has a large inaccessible countryside and relatively few cities compared with the UK.

The Zagreb course now has its offshoots in other parts of Yugoslavia; it has trained 400 doctors and has done much to reverse a dangerous trend in medical care. Its influence in the UK was chiefly felt in the 1960s before our own plans matured. The Canterbury day-release course (the earliest one) was particularly indebted to ideas from Zagreb.

Professor Vuletić died on 14 May this year and his loss is felt deeply in Zagreb.

He qualified in Prague in 1926 and spent a period at the London School of Hygiene in 1931. At that time he was training as a specialist in dermatovenereology, but he always combined this with epidemiology and ended this phase of his work immediately after the Second World War as head of the department of venereal diseases at the Ministry of Health. By 1952 his interests had moved towards primary health care and he set up the first health centre in Zagreb which proved to be a model. He spent the next few years as adviser to the World Health Organization in South East Asia, engaged in local community development and the development of primary health care.

He became Professor of the School of Public Health in Zagreb in 1960 and from then devoted himself completely to work on the special role and training of general practitioners. His course was essentially an in-service one with the doctors remaining in their practices,

but they would do full-time work on the course at intervals. Professor Vuletić also introduced general-practice teaching into the undergraduate curriculum.

By the end of his active life in 1970 Professor Vuletić had secured the recognition of general practice in Yugoslavia as a special role. A quarter of all the general practitioners in Croatia had become specialists in this branch after his training. He would have approved of our plans and actions in vocational training and perhaps now looked with envy at the speed of our development. We owe some of our beginnings to him.

JOHN HORDER

Dr Michael Sweetnam, FRCGP

Michael Sweetnam died from sudden coronary occlusion during his surgery on 2 August 1977, aged 55.

He qualified in London in the late 1940s and came to Stoke-on-Trent 25 years ago from a training post in the Isle of Wight. He was initially in partnership, and during that period he was a trainer himself. For the past ten years, after his partner's retirement, he had run the practice single-handedly. He was a most able and conscientious clinician and a great individualist; his patients were devoted to him.

He found time to pursue many medical, medico-political, and non-medical interests. For many years he was absorbed by his work on migraine. He held a Clinical Assistantship in the Department of Neurology in the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, he contributed articles to various journals, was a member of the British Migraine Association and lectured on migraine.

He was an active and enthusiastic member of the North Staffordshire Medical Society and often presented cases. When this venerable scientific society was superseded by the North Staffordshire Medical Institute, Michael became one of the founder members and retained his active interest until his death. He was its first Chairman of the Section of General Practice.

He was a long-standing member of the local medical committee, and was a very active member of the British Medical Association.

He was interested in history, and his fascinating lecture on kings and queens of England delighted many medical and non-medical audiences.

Michael was a North-West Faculty Board member for many years. He was Chairman from 1968 to 1970 and Provost from 1970 to 1972.

I have good personal reasons to be grateful to him—as indeed has the whole faculty—for as my predecessor in office he was always ready to share his wisdom and experience.

His latter years were dogged by recurrent ill health and beset by difficulties.

He was a devoted husband and father. To his wife and family we extend our profound sympathy.

GRETEL BURGHEIMER