

like to repeat my thanks to Dr E. V. Kuenssberg, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, to Council, and to Dr A. Marcus of Update Publications Ltd for the privilege of being invited as Update/RCGP Traveller 1979. The programme was superbly organized and I am deeply indebted to Dr J. S. Norell, Dean of Studies, for his immense personal efforts in this respect. My special thanks are also due to Professor J. H. Walker for shepherding me through the Workshop at Leamington Spa, and to Mrs H. Gittins, who ensured that all arrangements went off smoothly.

I must also express my deepest appreciation to all

those members of the Royal College of General Practitioners who gave so freely of their time, and extended such warm hospitality and sincere friendship during my visits to their practices, their departments, and their homes. My wife and I were both overwhelmed by the wealth of kindness which we were privileged to receive and would welcome the opportunity to reciprocate.

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OBITUARY

John Morton Henderson, MD, FRCP.ED, FRCGP, DPH

Dr John Morton Henderson was born in Glasgow in April 1900 and educated at Hutchesons Grammar School and the University of Glasgow. He qualified MB, CH.B with commendation in 1923 and was medallist in the classes of practical pathology and of therapeutics. On completing house officer posts he was appointed to a five-year tenure of a research post in the All-India School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Calcutta. There he researched into the pathology of leprosy and had papers in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* and in the *Indian Medical Gazette*.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1931 and undertook a period of postgraduate study, obtaining the degree of MD from the University of Glasgow in 1932, and the Diploma in Public Health of the University of London in 1933, being awarded the Chadwick Prize of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in that year.

He entered general practice in Birkenhead in 1933 and remained there until the outbreak of war, when as a Territorial Officer of the RAMC he joined up in September 1939. He served in the UK and in North-West Europe and was mentioned in despatches.

On demobilization he undertook a further period of postgraduate study, this time in Edinburgh, when he became by examination a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1946. (He was subsequently admitted to Fellowship of that College in 1956.) Thereafter he entered general practice in Pitlochry in 1947 until his retirement from practice in 1969. He was wont to point out that Pitlochry is the geographical centre of Scotland.

Dr Henderson was a foundation member of the College, and when the first College Council was set up in 1952, he was invited to be one of the three Scottish representatives. Later that year an interim Scottish

Council of the College was established with John Henderson as its first Chairman. He remained Chairman of the Scottish Council for the first four years of its existence and continued as a Member of the College Council while acting as the representative on Council of the South-East Scotland Faculty, of which Faculty he subsequently became Provost. He delivered the 1963 James Mackenzie Lecture.

When he retired from practice in Pitlochry in 1969, he was invited to join the Department of General Practice at the University of Edinburgh as a lecturer, where he helped considerably in setting up a bibliography service for this new department. His assistance was very much appreciated by students and staff alike. Although he had given up active practice as a general practitioner, he continued with his own researches into the place of electrocardiography in general practice and gave both encouragement and leadership to younger colleagues. Some of the material produced was published in this *Journal*.

Dr Henderson's final retirement from active practice and clinical work took place in 1976, when he settled in Meols, Cheshire.

John Henderson was a somewhat diffident, shy person who acted with great dignity in all his dealings with patients and colleagues. He was a first-rate clinician and the ideal person not only to help set up the College in Scotland but to be the first Chairman of Scottish Council. In the very early days of our College's existence, when general practice and its clinical, professional, and academic claims were by no means universally accepted, John Henderson was the perfect ambassador. Those of us who had the privilege of working closely with him have good reason to consider ourselves fortunate. At the same time the news of his death on 27 October 1979 brought with it a real sense of personal loss.

R. SCOTT