

OBITUARIES

C. R. McLAUGHLIN, M.A., M.B., B. CHIR., F.R.C.S. Ed.

Redmond McLaughlin died at his home in Mayfield, Sussex on June 29th, 1979. He was a founder member of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and was Secretary of the Association from 1957-59 and a member of the Council from 1960-62.

Educated at Rugby, Emmanuel College, Cambridge and Edinburgh, he qualified in 1934 and after gaining the Edinburgh Fellowship he was appointed surgeon to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, in 1937. With the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Air Force and was posted to Ely, Cambridgeshire and subsequently to the Bahamas where the Duke of Windsor was Governor General. It was during his war service that he became interested in reconstructive surgery and in 1946 he joined the staff of the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead and remained there until his retirement, at the age of 60, in 1969. He also held appointments at Rochester and Canterbury for much of this time.

Redmond McLaughlin was a very sound plastic surgeon and an extremely good ambassador for the speciality at a time when it was necessary to gain recognition among the other branches of the profession. He made original contributions, especially in the difficult problem of facial paralysis. His lateral tarsorrhaphy for this condition has become eponymous and is unlikely to be bettered. His writings were lucid and to the point. Many a struggling registrar and colleague turned to him for aid in writing a paper for publication. His "blue pencil" would lacerate the text so that unnecessary verbiage and often the author's prized phrases would be excised by this means. The improved result was achieved without acrimony or resentment as all was done with courtesy, humour and goodwill.

His teaching will be remembered by many young surgeons who have trained at East Grinstead over the years. Not only would they learn the niceties of plastic surgery but details of English history and literature, music and the arts and the myriad subjects which had captured his interest. To be with him was a delightful experience as his flow of conversation, with its flashes of irony and wit, never failed to amuse or instruct. The publication of "An Introduction to Plastic Surgery" (1951) and later, after his retirement, of "The History of the Royal Army Medical Corps" (1972) and "The Escape of the Goeben" (1974) bear testimony to his wide interests.

He spent his retirement with his wife, Rosemary, at his lovely house in Mayfield, Sussex, cultivating his garden, reading and writing and entertaining his many friends. He will be remembered with affection by those who knew him.

J. P. BENNETT