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Len Schofield died on the 23rd May, 1980, at the age of 69. He qualified in medicine in Glasgow in 1933. He held several junior hospital appointments, including a short spell of general practice until the outbreak of war when he volunteered for service in the Navy. His war service was spent almost entirely at sea in ships both large and small. He saw action on several occasions and had a very special affection for a certain paddle steamer that was the flagship of a mine-sweeping flotilla. Like any good sailor he could spin a good yarn and some of his best stories belonged to this period. He reached the rank of Surgeon Lt. Commander and whilst he was working at the Royal Naval Hospital in Haslar, took his F.R.C.S.Ed. diploma in 1945.

After holding the post of Resident Surgical Officer at the Coventry and Warwick Hospital he went to East Grinstead as a Senior Registrar and was one of the first holders of the Marks Fellowship in Plastic Surgery. At that time, the "Gang of Four" (Gillies, Kilner, McIndoe and Mowlem) were at the height of their power and in their units the trainees worked under tremendous pressure. New Consultant posts were slow in appearing and the competition for them was fierce. There was no such thing as a Committee on Higher Surgical Training, no form of specialist accreditation and a Senior Registrar at the end of his training had precious little security.

In 1953 he was appointed Consultant Plastic Surgeon to the Welsh Regional Centre for Plastic Surgery, Burns and Maxillo-facial Surgery in Chepstow. This was a very large unit, led by Emyln Lewis who had run the unit single-handed since 1943 and who was determined that his autocratic, almost Teutonic, rule should never be broken. The early years were not easy for a new consultant but "working away gently and with a certain amount of low-down cunning" (Len's words not mine) he was able to establish himself as a partner in the team with parity of beds and clinical facilities. In 1969 he was appointed Consultant Plastic Surgeon to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary and became a clinical teacher in plastic surgery in the Welsh National School of Medicine.

His main surgical interests were in the treatment of cleft lip and palate, burns and hypospadias. He contributed several papers to this Journal and his literary standards were high. Throughout the twenty years that we worked together you would always find a dictionary, Roget's Thesaurus and Fowler's "Modern English Usage" on his desk: one of the books would usually be open and none of them ever gathered any dust or cobwebs. He gave a fair and frank opinion on any work that you showed him and it was a chastening but necessary experience to discuss with him the mayhem he had wrought on your most recent earth-shattering manuscript.

He was a great upholder of the courtesies, ethics and responsibilities of our profession both in writing and in practice. His loyalty to his colleagues and the nursing staff was never in question and the affection in which he was held by his patients was remarkable.

He was always fond of a good argument: indeed he was almost an addict. If the talk in the dining room or the surgeons' room showed signs of flagging, he would thoroughly enjoy making some outrageous comment to rekindle the blaze. The topics might occasionally be surgical but cars, canal boats, sailing, politics, farming, philosophy, mechanical diggers and Robbie Burns' poetry

all came in for a good airing. Predictably, these arguments never settled anything and left everyone exhausted and bewildered. It was probably this Puck-like behaviour and zest for life that we missed most when he left Chepstow to settle in Warwickshire. We regret that he was not given enough time to enjoy his retirement as he had planned it, but wherever his spirit is now we can be certain that it will never be still.

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST