Obituary


Mr Andrew Baxter, Consultant in Charge of the ENT Department at Stobhill Hospital died on 18 December 1996 of a primary brain tumour. He had devoted his working life to the development of ENT surgery and was well known and respected, not only in Glasgow, but also by Otolaryngologists in the UK and abroad. He started his ENT training in the old ENT Hospital in Glasgow, but a period as a Research Fellow under Hal Schuknecht in Boston stimulated a lifelong interest in ear surgery and otosclerosis in particular. On returning from Boston in the 1970’s, he took up a Consultant post which was split between the ENT Hospital and Stobhill. He enthusiastically set about developing and expanding ENT Surgery and Audiology in Stobhill and, when the ENT Hospital closed down in 1982, he then became a full time Consultant to Stobhill. His main interest was always clinical and he put his strong Christian faith into practice by devoting his knowledge and skills to helping his patients and colleagues. Because of this, he was always in great demand for his sound advice. He was council member and convenor of the ENT Advisory Committee in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow organizing for many years the ENT Fellowship examination, a council member and Secretary of
the Scottish Otolaryngological Society, council member of the Royal Society of Medicine and for many years a member of the Specialty Advisory Committee in Otolaryngology. He was a tactful and skilled organizer and as Secretary of the local organizing committee for the Glasgow BACO meeting he was instrumental in the success of the conference.

An enthusiastic trainer of junior medical staff, he was a founding member of the Glasgow temporal bone surgery courses which, over 20 years, attracted trainee surgeons from many parts of the world. He was, therefore, instrumental in attracting many high-quality junior and senior staff to his Department and, under his leadership, Stobhill became one of Scotland’s highly respected ENT Departments.

He faced the implications of his final illness with great courage, strongly supported by his wife Tricia and son James. Despite two major operations and two courses of radiotherapy, he continued to help in the running of the Department and also continued his advisory work. He was an inspiration to us all and although he will be sadly missed, he will not be forgotten.

Brian F. O’Reilly