

QUEEN SQUARE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Number 9

Membership of the Queen Square Alumnus Association stands at 294 and continues to increase slowly but steadily.

QUEEN SQUARE NEWS:

DEATHS:

In the last Newsletter the death of Dr. Ronald Henson at the age of 79 was recorded. He was a neurologist at the London Hospital and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in Maida Vale. His long career spanned the changes in medical practice caused by the Second World War, by the introduction of the National Health Service, and by the technological methods that revolutionised neurological practice and research.

Ronald Henson entered the London Hospital Medical College as a medical student in 1935. At the onset of the war he undertook temporary house appointments in the Emergency Medical Service before joining the Oxford Head Injuries Centre, which had been set up under the leadership of Sir Hugh Cairns.

This experience with Cairns determined Henson's career in neurology. He returned to the London Hospital in 1947, and joined Russell Brain as neurologist. At the London, and with his subsidiary appointment at the National Hospital, he was surrounded by colleagues at the forefront of developments in contemporary clinical neuroscience, particularly in neuropathology and the newly developed understanding of auto-immune disease.

In this environment he developed an interest in the remote and direct neurological complications of cancer, leading to a seminal series of papers that described these clinical syndromes and explored their pathogenesis. This work was carried out in a research unit funded by the Imperial Cancer Research Campaign. With colleagues he established the context of this work in an influential monograph, *Cancer and the Nervous System* (1982).

There were other important forces in Henson's life, in particular teaching. He found students' youthful enthusiasm an invigorating experience in the face of the relentless pressures of clinical practice. He was very keen on cricket, and was often to be found on his way to the MCC.

He would discourse at length on English watercolourists and, as an accomplished pianist and organist, sought ways to integrate his musical and neurological interests. This culminated in the publication, with Macdonald Critchley, of **Music and the Brain** (1977).

He was increasingly occupied with musical affairs while living in London and served as Chairman of the London Bach Society for eight years. When he retired from neurological practice in 1981, he was appointed to the Arts Council. In his last years, living on the banks of the Severn, he served as Chairman of the Cheltenham International Music Festival and supported the Three Choirs Festival.

RETIREMENTS:

Dr. J. N. Blau, with effect from September 1994

Dr. K. J. Zilkha, with effect from December 1994.

Professor D. M. Bowen, Professor of Neurochemistry, on grounds of ill health, with effect from 1st June 1995.

Professor Lindsay Symon, Gough Cooper Department of Neurological Surgery, with effect from 31st July 1995.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Professor D. G. T. Thomas to the Chair of Neurological Surgery from 1st August 1995.

Conferment of titles:

The University of London has approved the following conferment of titles:

Dr.S.D.Shorvon Professor of Clinical Neurology from 1st January 1995.

Dr.P.J.Goadsby Reader in Clinical Neurology from 1st February 1995.

HONOURS AND AWARDS:

Professor R.S.J. Frackowiak, Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology, has been elected to membership of the Academia Europea and of the Belgian Academy of Medicine.

Dr.S.J. Heales, Department of Neurochemistry, was awarded the President's Prize for 1995 of the Royal Society of Medicine Pathology Section with a presentation on "A mechanism for nitric oxide mediated damage of the central nervous system in Multiple Sclerosis: and potential protection by vitamin E" and the 1995 Ames Award and Medal of the Association of Clinical Biochemists.

Professor W. Ian McDonald, the Josef Wolf Award 1995 of the Max-Planck Institut für Psychiatrie

Professor Lindsay Symon has been elected as Honorary Member of the Mexican Academy of Surgery.

Dr. A. J. Thompson, Department of Clinical Neurology, was Visiting Professor in the Department of Neurological Science at the University of Rome in June and July this year.

Dr. Bryan Youl, Department of Clinical Neurophysiology was elected an Honorary Foreign member of the Société Française de Neurologie.

OTHER NEWS

The Sir Jules Thorn EEG Telemetry Unit, funded by a £225,000 grant from the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust has opened at the National. A purpose-built ward with six beds has been created in the Queen Mary Wing, complete with the latest video-EEG telemetry equipment, which simultaneously monitors the behaviour and brain waves of patients.

The new ward will allow a significant increase in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy.

UCL Hospitals NHS Trust

The National will have combined Trust status with University College Hospital, the Middlesex (including St.Peter's Hospital for Urology and Nephrology) the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases . The National will remain on site which will ensure that the special relationship with the Institute of Neurology can continue. These arrangements are particularly appropriate given the formal relationship between the Institute of Neurology and University College London as reported in the previous Newsletter.

AMERICAN ACADEMY MEETING IN SEATTLE FROM 7th-14th MAY 1995.

An Alumnus Reception was held on the evening of 9th May This was a convivial meeting and enjoyed by those who attended.

**MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETY IN MUNICH
FROM 17th-21st JUNE 1995.**

The above meeting took place at the Sheraton Munchen Hotel and Towers, in Munich in June, and a Drinks Party was held on 19th June for Queen Square Alumni. This, too, was very enjoyable and our thanks must go to Professor Karlheinz Reiners for his excellent organisation of the event.

The 1996 meeting of the ENS will be held in the Hague from 8th-12th June.

**PAN AMERICAN MEETING OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.**

The above meeting will be held from 8th-13th October 1995 in Guatemala, and it is hoped that this will be an opportunity for a get together of Queen Square Alumni. Dr. A. J. Lees will be attending from Queen Square and hopes to enrol new members for the QSAA.

QUEEN SQUARE TIE

There is now a new Queen Square tie, a considerable improvement we feel on the previous one. A photocopy is enclosed. The background is navy and the emblem colours are green leaves with yellow, red and a touch of mauve. It is actually very attractive, and can be obtained from the Student Office at the Institute. The cost is £13.50 (to include postage and packing, and if you would like to purchase one, you should send a **STERLING** or **EURO** cheque for the amount to Janet Townsend in the Students' Office at the Institute. **ONLY** sterling or Euro cheques can be accepted. Cheques should be made payable to the Institute of Neurology.

With this Newsletter I am enclosing a brochure about courses etc. at the Institute. It would be appreciated if you could publicise these as widely as possible.

We hope you all have a very pleasant summer. The next Newsletter will be published in January 1996. Newsworthy items would be much appreciated by Pat Harris.



