

OBITUARY

Prof. She Yaxiong**She Yaxiong**

It is a major loss to the paediatric surgical community that Professor She Yaxiong, Director of Department of Paediatric Surgery, Xinhua Hospital, Shanghai, passed away on 20 January 1995. Professor She was the most famous paediatric surgeon in China.

Professor She was born on 18 October 1917 in Shanghai. At an early age, he went abroad and studied at Malonne Secondary School and the College of Medicine of the University of Louvain, Belgium. Due to the Second World War, he returned to China and graduated from the Medical College of l'Université de l'Aurore, Shanghai, in 1944 with outstanding academic achievement. After his surgical training in Alost Medical College, Belgium, he

joined the Guang Ci Hospital, Shanghai, as Assistant-Chief Surgeon. He became Chief of the Paediatric Surgical Department, Shanghai Second Medical College, in 1953 and took the post of Professor of Paediatric Surgery, Xinhua Children's Hospital, in 1960. He was also the President of the Society of Paediatric Surgeons in Shanghai, Vice-Chairman of the Paediatric Surgical Society of China, Associate Chief Editor of the *Journal of Paediatric Surgery, China*, and a visiting professor to various universities worldwide as well as an Editorial Consultant of *Pediatric Surgery International*.

Professor She Yaxiong was one of the founders of paediatric surgery in China. It was on his initiative that, in 1953, paediatric surgery as a discipline in China was first established at the Shanghai Second Medical College. Professor She devoted himself totally to the area of paediatric surgery. He established the technique of air enema and first successfully used it clinically to treat intussusception, which greatly benefited children with intussusception by avoiding surgical intervention. He successfully introduced numerous paediatric surgical techniques in China: he practised Swenson's procedure in 1953 and Duhamel's in 1959 and separated Siamese twins in 1982. His major interests were Hirschsprung's disease, oesophageal disorders, intussusception, paediatric nutrition, tumours, and liver transplantation. Under his supervision, a number of research projects on intussusception, Hirschsprung's disease, oesophageal disorders, diaphragmatic hernia, nutrition, intestinal neuronal dysplasia etc., were carried out and received various prizes for scientific and technological progress in China. He wrote over 150 papers and 27 books, including *Paediatric Surgery*, *Paediatric Oncology*, *Handbook of Paediatric Surgery*, and *Intussusception*.

Professor She loved teaching and made a great contribution to medical education. As the Chief Editor, he compiled the textbook *Paediatric Surgery* (editions 1–3) in China and made numerous teaching videos. He trained many paediatric surgeons and considerable numbers of PhD and MD students who now work all over China; most of them have become heads of departments of paediatric surgery in various hospitals. Professor She was a responsible and considerate person who won the love and respect of his students and colleagues. He was known for his meticulous scholarship and great learning as well as his deep love for his homeland and his people. He dedicated all his energies and wisdom to the field of paediatric surgery, for which he made many sacrifices.

Yiping Wang