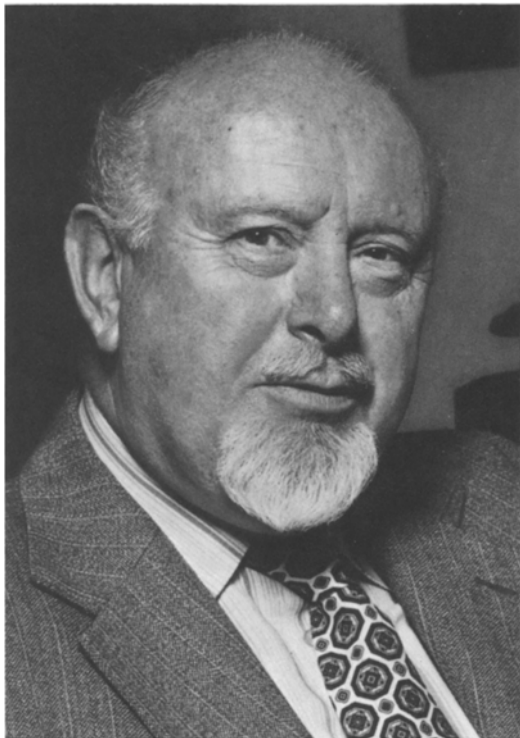


Obituary

**Professor Sir Howard Middlemiss
CMG, MD, FRCP, FRCS, FRCR**



The sudden death of Howard Middlemiss on 27th April at the age of 66 years has deprived the International Skeletal Society of one of its most distinguished members. He was one of the founders of the Society in 1974 and was programme chairman of the Refresher Course for its first European meeting, which took place in London in May 1975. From that time onwards he was a regular attender at our meetings, to which he made many valuable contributions. His interest in skeletal disorders stemmed not only from his long association with the renowned bone-tumour registry at the Univer-

sity of Bristol, but also from his extensive experience in tropical diseases.

John Howard Middlemiss already had become a diagnostic radiologist of international recognition when our Society was founded. He qualified in medicine in 1940 at the University of Durham and served with the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1941 to 1946, gaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His military service took him to India, where his experiences caused him to develop an abiding interest in underdeveloped countries. Shortly after his return to civilian life he became director of radiology at the United Bristol Hospitals, which was to be his base for the remainder of his life. He was appointed to a personal chair in 1965. The reputation of his department developed increasing stature under his guidance, both for teaching and research. During his latter years he accepted the onerous responsibility of being Dean of the Medical School.

Many of his students came from underprivileged countries. To a host of the governments of these countries, in Africa, Asia, and the West Indies, he served as adviser in radiology, being also a consultant to the World Health Organisation. For these services between 1953 and 1980 he was appointed a Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George.

He was in great demand as a clear and accurate speaker, giving many eponymous lectures in many countries, of whom no fewer than eight made him an honorary member or fellow of their national radiological societies. Among his many publications perhaps the most outstanding was his textbook on tropical radiology, published first in 1964 and enlarged in a second edition with his colleague, Dr. Peter Cockshott, also a member of the Society, in 1979.

His organisational services to radiology both nationally and internationally were immense. He took a major part in the transition of the Faculty of Radiologists to become the Royal College of Radiologists and was its first President. He was instrumental in setting up the European Diploma of Radiology and was currently Chairman of its Examining Board. His award of a knighthood by Her Majesty the Queen in 1981 was received with

acclamation by his colleagues. Shortly before his death he received the highest honour of the Royal College of Radiologists, being awarded its Gold Medal for only the seventh time in history. Alas, he did not survive to receive this honour in person.

Sir Howard Middlemiss is survived by his wife, Mary, known as a charming lady to many of our members and a son and two daughters. To them we all offer our deepest sympathy.