

Obituary

Gordon Gryspeerdt



Gordon Gryspeerdt died on the 17th November 1993 at the age of 80 years, deeply mourned by his family and his many friends.

Gordon was born in Croydon, Surrey on July 9th 1913. Educated at Beaumont College, Old Windsor, Berks, he rowed at school and at Henley and was in the winning rifle-shooting team at Bisley in 1930 and 1931. He studied

medicine at St. Thomas' Hospital, London and qualified in 1937. He was appointed Orthopaedic House Surgeon at St. Thomas' and at Pyrford Hospital, Surrey under Rowley Bristow. He volunteered to join the RAF in 1939 and served throughout the war, attaining the rank of Squadron Leader, and being mentioned in despatches. He returned to St. Thomas' Hospital in 1946 to study radiology, then later decided to specialise in neuroradiology. He trained in neuroradiology with Professor Lindgren at the Serafima Hospital in Stockholm in 1950, at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square and the Atkinson Morley's Hospital. In 1955, when Gordon came to Newcastle, a new Regional Neurosciences Unit was being planned. He planned the Neuroradiology Department, which was built first, and when completed was one of the best, if not the best in the U.K. It includes a superb lecture theatre which was named in honour of him on his retirement.

He made significant contributions to the world neuroradiological literature, particularly in occult spinal dysraphism and magnification cerebral angiography. In oc-

cult spinal dysraphism he developed myelographic techniques which later became standard practice throughout the world. Many neuroradiologists from abroad visited his department. Gordon was his own man at all times, enthusiastic to promote neuroradiology and meticulous in all that he did. He was Senior Consultant in Administrative Charge of the Neuroradiology Department, Regional Neurosciences Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne and at the Royal Victoria Infirmary from 1957 to 1978.

He was President of the British Society of Neuro-radiologists (1972/1974) and was a founder member of the European Society of Neuroradiologists in Colmar, France in September 1969.

Although a dedicated neuroradiologist he found time to be a very expert gardener and in his retirement a craftsman in the use of silver, with his own hallmark with the Assay Office. His many colleagues and friends in the U.K. and Europe will remember the superb hospitality which he and Norna provided at their lovely home at Riding Mill, Northumberland.

Gordon Gryspeerdt was a great pioneer in the development of neuroradiology in the United Kingdom and Europe. My colleagues and I in Newcastle will always remember Gordon's kindness and warmth, his engaging wit, his modesty and courtesy, his help and enthusiastic encouragement.

Many letters have paid tribute to him. To mention a few: from John Hankinson, Professor of Neurosurgery, who said Gordon "rejoiced with me when things went well and cheered me when they didn't"; from Ted Burrows, who stressed Gordon's single mindedness in pursuit of the highest standards and his adoption of the concept of the joint effort of the team working together; and from Erik Lindgren, who said Gordon was "such a man one immediately liked".

V.L. McAllister