

OBITUARIES

DR. DAVID CAMPBELL AIKENHEAD

DR. DAVID CAMPBELL AIKENHEAD died at London, Ontario, on January 27, 1973.

Dr. Aikenhead was the eldest son of John and Mary Aikenhead. He was born in Hartney, Manitoba and received his early education at Hartney. In 1912 he commenced the study of medicine at the Manitoba Medical College in Winnipeg. In the fall of 1915 his 3rd year medical studies were interrupted when he joined the Medical Corps during the First World War and served both in England and France. The following year he was sent home to complete his medical studies. In 1917 after graduation, still in the armed services, he returned to France. On demobilization in 1919 he returned to Canada and established a practice at Sinclair, Manitoba. In the same year he was married to Mildred Kelly of Sarnia, Ontario.

In 1920 he joined the Department of Anaesthesia of the Winnipeg General Hospital. As a junior member in the Department, Dr. Aikenhead also established a General Practice as was the custom of that era. With the passing of time, the demands of Anaesthesia became greater and his general practice activities had to be curtailed. In 1935 he was appointed Head of the Department of Anaesthesia at the Winnipeg General Hospital succeeding Dr. William Webster, and Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery (Anaesthesia), at the University of Manitoba. Under his direction the hospital department expanded, and teaching of the specialty to medical students, internes and residents was more firmly established.

Dr. Aikenhead was always a "young modern" in his field and probably the first person to use cyclopropane anaesthesia in Western Canada. Under his direction Sodium Pentothal was used when it was known only as an Investigational drug with a number.

The Winnipeg Anaesthetists Society grew out of small meetings initiated and organized by Dr. Aikenhead with the anaesthetists in the various hospitals of Winnipeg. Attendance at an Anaesthesia Travel Club with Dr. Ralph Knight of Minneapolis, Dr. Ralph Waters of Wisconsin, Dr. John Lundy of Rochester, Minnesota, and others, was always an interest to him. He was an early member of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society and a Member of Council for many years. Was always interested and active in various medical organizations, which culminated in his Presidency of the Manitoba Medical Association in 1943-44. During the years he was a member of many societies, among which were - Canadian Institute of International Affairs and Canadian Club. As a member and elder he took an active part in Knox United Church.

In 1953 he retired from the Winnipeg General Hospital and Faculty of the University and moved to Burlington to live on the shore of Lake Ontario. But his retirement was shortly interrupted by recruitment for Anaesthesia in Hamilton. Two years later, he joined the anaesthetists in Burlington. This association continued until 1969. Dr. & Mrs. Aikenhead moved to London, Ontario in 1971.

He is survived by his widow, Mildred, his daughter Helen (Mrs. K. Buckley) of Ottawa, his son, Dr. David Aikenhead, of London and six grandchildren.

AN APPRECIATION

Dr. Aikenhead practiced during a 50 year era of significant advances and growth in anaesthesia. He presented a paper to the Canadian Anaesthetists Society in June 1922 which was published in the C.M.A.J. 1922. 7,000 anaesthetics were reviewed. The common agents used were chloroform, ether, and ethyl chloride. The former two were administered by open drop technique on a Gwathmey mask covered with several layers of stockinette. Ethyl chloride was used as an induction agent, either with a closed Ormsby inhaler, or spray and drip technique with the Gwathmey mask. A metal airway or oxygen was used when necessary to ensure sufficient oxygenation. Respiratory complications were considered in the presentation. Among the 19 complications, four were abscesses following tonsillectomy. One of the four deaths that occurred with a respiratory complication was an open "one stage", prostatectomy, performed in 40 minutes with nitrous oxide, oxygen and ether, one ounce! At the end of the surgery there was considerable haemorrhage "necessitating two injections of horse serum to arrest bleeding". On the third post-operative day right lobar pneumonia was diagnosed and the patient died on the 9th post-operative day.

In 1940, in the Manitoba Medical Review (July) he reviewed 3,549 anaesthetics. Again ether was used by the semi-closed method in 49%; 29.5% had "gas" (95% of these were cyclopropane), and "spinal" comprised 18.5% of the total. An intratracheal tube was used in over 300 anaesthetics for abdominal surgery with improved muscle relaxation, and no change in pulmonary morbidity. These two articles reflect the changes in agents, techniques, problems, and therapy, at the beginning and approximate middle of his long career. What a transition between 1922 and 1969!

Dr. Aikenhead was always a forward thinking person, ready to give up the past and, with judgment from experience, to choose wisely the best of new modern methods and techniques both professionally and in other aspects of living. He always enjoyed a convention and returned with enthusiasm to adopt things he had seen and heard.

Many holidays and summer weekends were spent at a cottage at Falcon Lake near Winnipeg. He had the first sail boat on the Lake and enjoyed pitting his skill and strength against the forces of water and wind. Many of his friends, colleagues, and Internes from the hospital had their first experience of sailing on Falcon Lake. After moving to Ontario, gardening became his hobby. The spacious grounds around his home on the shore of Lake Ontario bore evidence with many transplanted "wild" flowers, beautiful rock gardens, roses and other perennials.

In comparison to today, hospitals in Winnipeg were not as large and with fewer personnel in all departments. He was with empathy, a friend to all the hospital family; "Pete", the plumber, "Albert" from the power house, nurses and medical colleagues.

Wise, prudent, humane, and above all, kindly, he will be long remembered.

D.M.H.

DR. JOHN R. CALDER

DR. JOHN CALDER of Brantford, Ontario died on November 14, 1972.

Dr. Calder graduated from McGill University in 1918. He established a general practice in Brantford, Ontario, and devoted a large part of his practice to the practice of Anaesthesia. During World War II he was appointed as Anaesthetist to the Canadian Army, and served with Number Five Canadian General Hospital. He was certificated as a specialist in Anaesthesia by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1945. He was for many years Anaesthetist-in-Chief of the Brantford General Hospital. He became a member of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society in 1946, and was transferred to Honorary Retired Membership in 1969. Dr. Calder was in his eighty-first year at the time of his death.

DR. JOHN D. CAMERON

DR. JOHN CAMERON of Sudbury, Ontario, died suddenly while visiting in Toronto on Friday, 26 January, 1973. Dr. Cameron graduated from the University of Toronto in 1939. During World War II he was Medical Officer in the Royal Canadian Navy, and commenced his career in Anaesthesia at that time in the post-graduate course for service anaesthetists at McGill University, Montreal. He was certificated in Anaesthesia by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1945, and on his discharge from the naval service he entered the practice of Anaesthesia on the staff of the Toronto East General and Orthopaedic Hospital. In 1952 he removed to Sudbury where he has practiced since that time. In Sudbury he was instrumental in the organization of group practice of Anaesthesia, and contributed significantly to the development and maintenance of high standards in the specialty in his community. He was active in car rally driving and sailing.

Dr. Cameron is survived by his wife, Margaret (nee Kilgour) and by three sons, Dr. John Charles Cameron, David and Alexander and three daughters, Martha, Mary and Sarah.

DR. GEORGE EDWARD SLEATH

DR. GEORGE EDWARD SLEATH, a member of the Active Staff of the Department of Anaesthesia of Vancouver General Hospital, died at Vancouver on February 16, 1973, following a lingering illness. He was fifty-one years of age.

Born in New Westminster, B.C., Dr. Sleath received his B.A. Degree from the University of British Columbia in 1942, and his M.D. Degree from the University of Alberta in 1946. He was the Gold Medalist in his graduating class in Medicine. He served in the R.C.A.M.C. from 1943 to 1946.

Following internship at the University Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, he undertook further training at the Vancouver General Hospital. From 1948 to 1950 he was in General Practice in Haney, B.C.

In 1950, he enrolled in the Post-Graduate Course in Anaesthesia at the University of Toronto. On completion of his training he joined the staff of the Department of Anaesthesia of the Vancouver General Hospital, and was a member of the Active Staff of that hospital until 1972, when illness forced his retirement. He was also a Clinical Instructor in Anaesthesia at the University of British Columbia and a member of the Associate Staff, Vancouver Children's Hospital from 1952 to 1964. He received his Certification from the R.C.P.S. (Canada) in 1954, and became a Diplomat of the American Board of Anaesthesiology in 1959.

Dr. Sleath was a member of the Canadian Medical Association, the British Columbia Medical Association; the American Society of Anaesthesiologists and the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. He was President of the B.C. Division of the C.A.S. from 1962 to 1963, and served as a member of the National Council of the C.A.S. from 1962 to 1964.

Ed Sleath will be remembered as a quiet, efficient, dedicated anaesthetist, well-liked and respected by all his anaesthesia and surgical associates. He was an ardent supporter of the United Church of Canada, and served as member of the Session and the Official Board of Knox United Church, Vancouver.

His hobbies were associated with the love of Nature. He was particularly interested in Ornithology, boating and sailing and curling. He maintained a large stamp collection.

He is survived by his widow, formerly Elaine Rosborough; two sons, Bill and Robert and a daughter, Anne, all of Vancouver.

H.B.G.

MEETINGS

BIENNIAL WESTERN CONFERENCE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY
 Refresher Courses – *May 5 and 6, 1973*
 BWCA Meeting – *May 6 to 10, 1973*
 The Dunes Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

For information:

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XXIII CONGRÈS FRANÇAIS D'ANESTHÉSIE-REANIMATION
 Grenoble, France
17, 18, 19 mai 1973

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