



Paul A. Toller

F. D. S. R. C. S. (Engl.)

1922-1977

Mr. PAUL A. TOLLER, Consultant Dental Surgeon to the Department of Dental and Oral Surgery at Mount Vernon Hospital, to the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital at Taplow, and to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital died on July 13, 1977. His death is a great loss to the British and International Oral Surgical Community. An intensely inquiring mind led him to make advances in every subject in which he became interested, and his interests were diverse.

TOLLER was a charming, warm individual who always showed a genuine enthusiasm for his friends and colleagues. His encouragement of young oral surgeons in training

even extended to writing them short notes of appreciation after they presented papers at professional meetings.

His uniqueness consisted in two qualities which are very uncommon in surgeons. One was a natural scientific curiosity, which inspired him to do basic research throughout his career, and the other his cultural sensitivity, which made him a fine art expert and collector of jade, glass and porcelain.

His life-long interest in cysts of the jaws started with his first publication in 1948, describing an experimental investigation into the growth of such cysts. Since that time he published more than a dozen substantial original papers on the subject. His work undoubtedly awakened both oral surgeons and pathologists from a complacent slumber as dormant as the cell rests of Malassez!

It is no exaggeration to say that his work stimulated improved clinical practice and clinico-pathological investigation all over the world.

His Hunterian lecture in 1966 to the Royal College of Surgeons of England was entitled "Origin and growth of cysts of the jaws". Here he brought together his own original work with work of the past and of his contemporaries in related fields. The result was a classic in professional literature and is the most quoted of all his publications.

Scandinavian and British colleagues will remember with the greatest of pleasure PAUL TOLLER's leadership of the symposium on the odontogenic keratocyst at the delightful, combined S.F.O.K. and B.A.O.S. meeting at Randers in 1970. Paul took immense trouble in its preparation, identifying the problem areas, briefing and disciplining his contributors on the platform and from the floor. His personal status, humility and deep knowledge of the subject ensured the most enjoyable and informative two hours that many of us have ever spent in a professional meeting.

He probably did more clinical research on the temporomandibular joint than anyone in the past decade. This included his arthrography and radiographic studies. Also his concept of a functional disorder, i.e. the temporomandibular joint dysfunction syndrome, giving rise to structural osteo-arthrotic changes was an important discovery which has not yet been fully appreciated by those who deal with these patients. The first paper in this issue of the International Journal of Oral Surgery was submitted shortly before his death.

This work is beautifully illustrated with his transpharyngeal radiographs, and excellent histology. He was also probably the first clinician to be aware of the effects of intra capsular steroids on the temporomandibular joint. This continual energetic perceptiveness and need to solve problems extended into the field of surgical technique, where he designed amongst other things a surgical bone drill and burs as well as pins for the fixation of facial fractures.

Fortunately he had the additional talent of being able to convey his knowledge in published papers and chapters, many of which were also superbly presented as lectures. Tragically, although his life and career were rich and highly productive, they were too short. He died very bravely after tolerating a long and painful illness.

"The whole earth is the tomb of heroic men and their story is not graven in stone over their clay, but abides everywhere without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives."
Thucydides

P. BRAMLEY B. W. FICKLING M. HARRIS E. HJØRTING-HANSEN