

OBITUARY

Paul Arnold Toller



Paul Arnold Toller died peacefully at home on 13 July 1977. Patients and staff of Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, the Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital will be the poorer for his passing. A Founder Member of the Association, he would have taken up the office of President in October of this year, but for the illness which overtook him in the autumn of 1976. As current President of the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, the Society which had awarded him the Collyer Prize 30 years ago, his courage in the face of great disability in pursuing this year of office was exemplary.

Amongst many prizes which he won while a student at The Royal Dental Hospital, was the Parris Prize given for 'inventive genius' and it was this quality which marked his contributions to oral surgery. His deep knowledge of metallurgy, electronics, physics and chemistry made him a one-man research team and his ability to build and develop his own technical devices and research equipment was admired by those who knew his work. When the British Association of Oral Surgeons inaugurated the Maurice Down Research Prize and Medal he was the first recipient.

Practising oral surgeons will continue to benefit from his research work on the design of skeletal screw pins, tungsten carbide surgical bone drills, titanium universal joints and very many other surgical instruments associated with his name. Oral surgery and its related research problems were but part of his professional life. He was a very complete dental surgeon who brought to our branch of surgery the skills associated with restorative and prosthetic dentistry.

As one of the early Fellows in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England he supported the College with all his enthusiasm and was elected to the Board of Faculty of Dental Surgery in 1971. Amongst the many awards showered upon him—a Hunterian Professorship, the John Tomes Prize and the Charles Tomes Lectureship were recognition of his international reputation as an authority on the surgery and pathology of cystic lesions of the jaws and the temporo-mandibular joint.

A Member of the Standing Dental Advisory Committee to the Central Health Services Council, his advice was sought by many other professional bodies and it was always freely given.

Surgeon, inventor, collector, painter and fisherman, he will be sadly missed. To his wife Dorothy and daughters Marilyn and Sue, the Association offer their deepest sympathy.

G. L. F.