

Weekly Tutorials

A weekly tutorial is held in the Department or in the Small Lecture Theatre adjacent to it each Monday at 9.15 a.m. The talks are designed specifically for those doing their month of Anaesthesia but other students are welcome.

The talk on the second Monday each month is usually devoted to Emergency Resuscitation including the Treatment of Cardiac Arrest.

An additional tutorial devoted to Intensive Care is normally held at 10.15 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.

Retirement:

Professor A. J. E. Cave, M.D., D.Sc. (Manch.), D.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.C.S.

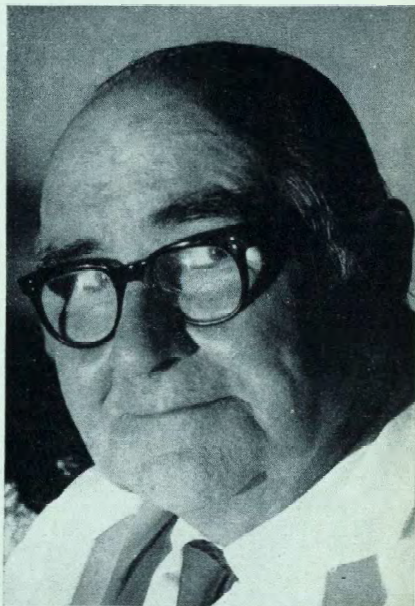
The Medical College and especially the Department of Anatomy, have just said goodbye to Professor Alec Cave who has been Head of the department for 21 years, and retires as Professor Emeritus.

It is not easy to write about Cave in a way which will neither bring a blush to his cheek nor an outburst of wrath down on the head of the writer, but perhaps the personality and career of an interesting man can be left to speak for themselves.

Having qualified at the University of Manchester he went as assistant to a general practitioner in the West Riding of Yorkshire. He enjoyed both the professional and the human interest, but was frustrated by the lack of adequate treatment and still more by the absence of a scientific basis to early twentieth century medicine.

This may have turned his attention to a basic science, and his choice was a Demonstratorship of Anatomy under Professor J. K. Jamieson at Leeds. Jamieson was a man forward-looking in research, and fully aware of the wealth of uninvestigated material in anatomy. It was a tough post to start in, since the students were a little like Rugby League players and the new demonstrator had to learn both his craft and his control.

Craft is still something worthwhile; the handling of tissues and their display is more readily learnt in the dissecting room than anywhere else. As his proficiency grew, Cave widened his field and became a member of the Anatomical Society of G.B., later becoming its secretary.



After ten profitable years at Leeds he moved to University College, London, where he later filled the post of Special Lecturer in Comparative Anatomy. This was really his particular interest and far more than a mere research project. His field included such diverse mammals as the whale and the rhinoceros. The

white rhino in particular affected him emotionally and he was anxious about its survival. Some will have seen and heard him on Television this year, describing the plight of the few hundred surviving specimens.

After a short stay at University College he moved to Lincoln's Inn Fields to take charge of the Human and Comparative Anatomy collection of the R.C.S. Museum, receiving the title of Professor in 1941. Tragically the greater part of the Hunterian Collection was destroyed by enemy action, including many precious specimens made by John Hunter himself which had been placed in a vaulted part of the basement for safety. The next few years were performance spent in restoring and reconstructing, with practically no teaching and little research. Cave came to know the great figures of the surgical world, and under suitable circumstances could talk by the hour of Hugh Lett, Moynihan, Waring, Grey Turner, Webb-Johnson and many more.

His appointment to the Chair of Anatomy at Bart's in 1946 came at the time of the re-opening of the department after the years of war, during which the students had worked at Cambridge. The dissecting room was his main focus of activity, and he was often to be found there with a large group around him listening to his descriptions and explanations, and watching his skilful dissection. He frequently deplored the students' lack of classical knowledge, which he rightly said made the understanding of anatomical terms more difficult. He loved eponyms (now out of fashion) and enlivened the work by historical references to the man concerned.

Professor Cave examined for many years in the Primary Fellowship, and quite unjustifiably had the reputation of being a severe examiner. Both at Bart's and at the Examination Hall in Queen's Square he almost invariably wore his little black skull cap, and an ill-prepared and unsure candidate, seeing his black cap, was liable to be afraid. In point of fact, Cave was

both kind and fair and always succeeded in bringing out the best in a reasonable candidate. He was perhaps caustic to his own demonstrators having a trial viva with him in their last term before exam, but this he held to be for their good. It is pleasant to recall that he has had many demonstrators of distinction: Mr. Aston, Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Bedford are present members of the Hospital Consultant staff who come to mind. He would take endless trouble over students in any sort of difficulty, advising and helping them provided he had satisfied himself that their work and attendance were up to standard. For the slacker he had no time, and he was not readily deceived.

Cave has never spared himself, and until his recent operation did not know what illness was. The morning lecture over and its theme entered in his log book, he tackled the correspondence, using evil words about some superfluous communications from the University, or even more when some "return" was called for by the College Office. Once the correspondence was settled he turned to his beloved research. The comparative anatomy of the epipharynx kept him happy for several years. The Zoo provided a good deal of material, while some came from friends as widely dispersed as Africa and Scandinavia, and a little he had collected himself. A sure way to his heart was a present of mammalian material. The sight of a half grown rhinoceros (from Whipsnade) being dismembered on the dissecting floor one Saturday morning will not readily be forgotten by those who saw it.

Anatomy has been Cave's life. Well read and deeply religious (in spite of his electrifying language) he has had and has needed no other interests or hobbies. Conversation he has always enjoyed either at the homes of friends or on Friday evenings at the Athenaeum, and it is the sincere wish of all his friends at Bart's, that his retirement will give him facilities and opportunity to continue these interests for a long time to come.

J.B.H.

Classified Advertisements

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Wanted: One small refrigerator. Apply Journal Office.