

BAPS

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born 10.2.13. Qualified from St. Bartholomew's with MRCS, LRCP. 1935 just before 22nd birthday and held first post as RMO at Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples Hospital at Alton. This probably fixed the interest in paediatrics. The hospital had about 200 children with skeletal tuberculosis, lupus or deformities. Visiting consultants from London included Oswald Addison, "Bobo" Hugh Thurstield and Alex Simpson-Smith all from H.S.C. St Ormond St. Mr Addison's main interest was urology and a high proportion of skeletal TB children had renal lesions. After house appointments I taught anatomy and obtained assistantships at Paddington Green Children's Hospital and The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square (later the Westminster Children's). There I had the privilege of working with David Levi to whom a number of my generation owe their introduction to the speciality.

There was a section RSM meeting in the autumn of 1939 to discuss the future of paediatric surgery. I think T. Twistington Higgins was the section president. Dr A. White Franklin vigorously opposed surgeons having beds and believed plumbers and carpenters should be called in by the paediatricians as required. I took part in this.

In 1946 after 6 years in the RAF I returned to my pre-war post at Bart's and was appointed as a consultant at the Children's Hospital, Sydenham. In 1947 I joined the consultant staff at St Bartholomew's as a general surgeon but my paediatric interest was a factor in obtaining this appointment. At that time no full-time paediatric surgeons existed in London apart from Denis Browne. The other surgeons at Great Ormond Street were Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward, Charles Donald (London Hospital), Eric Lloyd (London Hospital), George McNab (Westminster Hospital), and Twistington Higgins at Great Ormond St as clinical assistant and worked with him for 3 years. During this time I did my investigative work on the neurogenic bladder. David Waterson was RMO at GOS; David Innes-Williams came as clinical assistant; Douglas Stephens from Melbourne was a research assistant, just returned from working with Swenson in USA and fully convinced that mega-ureter had the same pathology as Hirschsprung's disease.

This was a period of considerable historic importance when the NHS appointed the first senior registrars in paediatric surgery of which the late H. H. Nixon and Peter Paul Rickham were two who went on to achieve great distinction.

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During this period a group of us founded the Renal Association. I had the honour of giving the inaugural address on Renal Salvage in Children. My two Hunterian lectures (1949, 1956) and an Aris and Gale lecture (1950) at RCS Eng were related to surgical problems in children. I was Casey Holter Memorial lecturer at Frieberg in 1970. My involvement with spina bitida enabled me through the Shattisbury Society to start Coney Hill School in 1955 in Kent, the first specifically designed for incontinent paraplegic children. I personally was able to supervise the care of children there for 25 years, a period which covered the dramatic change in attitudes and management with the introduction of the Holter valve and an aggressive policy of early intervention and education

In the 33 years on the staff at Bart's, much of my work was paediatric, and the radiotherapy department treated children referred from Great Ormond Street, who required surgery as well. This was an exciting period as we witnessed the almost miraculous results of early chemotherapy, which in due course has led to the development of the present Children's cancer department

I served on the Dept of Health (d'Abreu) committee on Neonatal surgery in the 1970s but its findings were lost or buried as being too difficult.