

DECEMBER 1990

Dear Victor Boston,

As suggested by the Council of the B.A.P.S., I have been asked to supply an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae.

This is a difficult task to condense my eighty-one years of survival.

I was born one of twins in Essex in 1910 (Feb. 21st) and was educated at Chigwell School 1919-1927 and then studied at St. Bartholomew's Medical School, London and qualified in 1933, and obtained the F.R.C.S. (Eng.) in 1941.

After holding junior and later senior posts, I served in the R.M.S. during the London Air Raids (1939-41), before entering the R.A.M.C.:-

1941-46 R.A.M.C.:

181 Airlanding Field	U.K.
Ambulance, 1st	N. Africa
Airborne Division	& Italy
Military Hospital	Gibraltar
67th British	Italy
General Hospital	Belgium
	Germany
21 British General	India
Division (Lt.Col.)	

Awarded Mention in despatches Italy, 1943, etc.

After the War, I returned to the Royal Northern Hospital as Senior Registrar (1945-1949). I had previously served there as House Surgeon and R.S.O. 1937-1941 and also as House Surgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. Post-War Consultant posts were very much in demand. In 1948 I became Consultant Surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, and continued there until my retirement in 1977.

During my many years as Paediatric Surgeon, I had the opportunity to present and publish several surgical papers. The relevant ones are appended in separate pages.

In addition, I published over 50 papers, including those already cited. My wider interests included such topics as: St. Edith of Wilton, Florence Nightingale figures, Medical Expenses in Tudor Times, Medical Aspects of the Peninsular War and book reviews and short biographies on Dr Jean Misaubin etc.

Concerning the B.A.P.S.

I was a founder of the Association in 1953 and became an Honorary Member in 1975, and for several years served as Honorary Archivist to the Association and published a brochure entitled the "Genesis of the B.A.P.S." in 1981. This was sponsored by Down Brothers and distributed to all the members at that time. For many years I have attended the Annual Meetings of that Association and served on the Council initially. In 1979, I presented the Simpson-Smith Lecture.

In my capacity of Senior Consultant Surgeon at the Q.E.H., I initiated the interchange of registrars (surgical) of the London and University College Hospital for periods of six months. Several of these registrars ultimately became consultant specialists elsewhere.

In addition to my work at the Q.E.H., I was elected as Consultant in General Surgery at the Queen Mary's Hospital, E.London. The two sessions there completed my full part-time surgical sessions. At Queen Mary's, I continued with paediatric surgical work. On my retirement there, I became Emeritus Surgeon in 1975.

In 1977, I had retired from both these hospitals and was elected Hon-Consulting Surgeon at the Hospitals for Sick Children Group.

After retiring, I became Chairman of the Q.E.H. Children's Appeal Fund for the next 10 years and continued as one of the Appeal Trustees. That fund is in a healthy state with two appeal administrators and continues to thrive.

In my retirement, I continue attending the Annual B.A.P.S. Meetings and enjoy my retirement with my hobbies - writing, reading and painting (oils and watercolours). My recent publication entitled Lady Lister (the daughter of James Syme the Edinburgh Surgeon and the industrious wife of Lord Joseph Lister). This last biography will be published in the 1991 Transactions of the Hunterian Society and should be printed this year.

I continue my interest in the B.A.P.S. and hope to attend the 1991 meeting in Budapest.

With all best wishes for the New Year.

Valentine Swain

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To: Victor Boston Esq., MD, FRCS, FRCSI

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,

The British Association of Paediatric Surgeons

The Royal College of Surgeons.