

and malignant forces threatening to undermine the high ideals that his department was determined to uphold. The medical school honoured him by naming the main lecture room in the Department of Medicine after him.

He was the author of three books, the first being *A Companion to Clinical Medicine in the Tropic and Subtropics*. This book describes his clinical experiences in medicine in his unit over 25 years. The second book was on tetanus, and the third was a biography of Dr Anthony Barker, a medical missionary who provided invaluable service in caring for Zulu patients in a rural hospital at Nqutu in Zululand.

Sybil, his wife of 67 years, was a kindred spirit and a much valued mother figure to generations of junior staff whom she made welcome in their home, first in Durban and later in Long Melford, Suffolk. Barry and Sybil were blessed with a happy family life, graced by their two sons and two daughters (one of the latter also pursued a medical career) who have maintained their links with Barry's former colleagues and students. The precipitating cause of death was a fracture of the femur.

Dr Oscar Jolobe
Professor Y K Seedat

Derek Dickson (1926 - 2010)

Derek was born in Pretoria on 14 February 1926. He was educated at Pretoria Boys High, where he matriculated in 1944. After serving in the artillery in 1945, he started his medical training at Wits in 1946, graduating in 1951.

He practised in Vereeniging for a short period and then returned to Wits to specialise in anaesthetics.

In 1958 Derek went to East London and joined Drs Hankins and Haddad in specialist anaesthetic practice. He made his mark in his speciality and continued until 1979, when he moved out of

anaesthesia to the South African Blood Transfusion Services where he took over the medical responsibilities.

Derek was dedicated to the Border Blood Transfusion Service, which was his pride and joy. It gave me particular pleasure, with each new intake of interns and medical officers, to invite him to give a talk on the correct and appropriate use of blood products -- a topic on which they were woefully ignorant. He produced, and revised each year, a booklet, a copy of which remained in each department for ready reference: those who did not follow his rules got the length of my tongue. On one occasion Professor Don Jeffries of London University (Head of the Department of Virology), who had a keen interest in blood transfusion, visited East London. I arranged a visit to Derek's unit and laboratory, and the two got on famously. Don remarked to me afterwards that it was one of the finest units he had seen.

In 1999 Derek retired from the South African Blood Transfusion Services, and continued his interest in medicine by running haematology and diabetic sessions at Frere Hospital.

Derek was a quiet man and a little reluctant to tell us stories of his anaesthetic experiences in the early days, when several of us met monthly for lunch. I did, however, as long-time editor of the SAMA Border Branch Newsletter, prevail on him to write down some of the highlights (and terrifying experiences) which had befallen him. He turned in 6 pages, which I published in full and which are now before me as I write. I can only say that he had a gift of drawing one totally into the scene. It is a great pity that he did not record his memoirs.

In 2009 he and Eileen retired to Paarl, where he passed away on 28 September 2010 after a brief illness.

We of ROFS Club miss you deeply, Derek, and send sincere condolences to Eileen and the family.

D Smyth
Bjorn Uys

BOOK REVIEW

Bioethics, Human Rights and Health Law. Principles and Practice

By Ames Dhali and David McQuoid-Mason. Pp. xiv + 194. R245.99. Juta and Company. 2011. ISBN 978-0-70218-052-1.

Given its title this slim volume, running to just 200 pages, is deceptive. With elegance, accessibility and easy readability, it deals with complex, and it must be said potentially dry, matters of great importance to health practitioners in the South African health delivery environment. The authors (and contributing authors) are authorities and the text is thoroughly referenced ... not just with the South African Constitution, National Health Act, and the myriad other health Acts, the key founding documents of modern medical ethics deriving from the Nuremberg Code and the World Medical Association Declarations, the excellent series of guidelines provided by the Health Professions Council of SA (all web addresses supplied), but also with pertinent articles from the medical and legal literature.

The book is aimed at the self-directed learner (of which more later) in all of the health professions and is arranged into two main sections: Introduction to Bioethics, Human Rights and Health Law, which provides the background to (the second section) Specific

Topics. This latter deals with issues of professionalism within the practitioner-patient relationship and opens with a superb chapter titled 'The cornerstone of healthcare practice'. The rest of this section is right up to date, dealing with HIV and AIDS, resource allocation, human health and the environment, research ethics and other topics, importantly all from the South African perspective.

In relation to the self-directed learner, each chapter begins with a list of the reader's expected knowledge outcomes, following absorption of the facts contained within, and ends with a series of questions relating to that reading. Here I have a suggestion: the content is complex and I should have liked an appendix at the end of the book offering brief answers to the questions posed, against which to test the reader's own answers. (Perhaps the authors might consider this suggestion for a future edition).

In their preface the authors state that the book is intended as an introductory guide for health care and law students and also for medical and legal practitioners; their ambition is fully realised. However, given the complexity of the information provided, albeit, as said, in an easy-to-read style, my recommendation would be that **all** practitioners hold this excellent book in their personal libraries for easy reference whenever faced, as we all are from time to time, with an ethical dilemma.

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