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OBITUARY

Dr. James Henry Cyriax, MD, MRCP

With the sudden death of Dr. Cyriax on June 17th at the age of 80, orthopaedic medicine has lost its founder and principal practitioner, and a man who has had an important influence on sports medicine. He qualified with MRCS, LRCP in 1929, having trained at Caius College, Cambridge and St. Thomas' Hospital, London and gained MB, BChir Cantab in 1931. In 1938 he obtained the MD Cantab, and MRCP in 1954. His interest in soft tissue and joint diseases led to the award of the Heberden prize in 1943. He served St. Thomas' Hospital for 40 years from qualification in 1929 until retirement in 1969 but he continued in private consultant practice almost until the time of his death.

He established a department devoted to massage and manipulation at St. Thomas' Hospital in 1938 which became the "department of orthopaedic medicine" and pioneered methods of manipulation which could be carried out by physiotherapists, and carried these ideas further when, with other enthusiasts, he founded the Association of Manipulative Medicine, a society in which he was rightly President for some time. He held many other part-time appointments — to the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing and St. Andrew's Hospital, Bow, as well as Civilian Consultant to the Ministry of Aviation and to British Airways. Besides these UK commitments he was Visiting Professor to the University of Rochester, USA and in 1966 was awarded the Gold Medal by the University of Verona. In recent years he established the Cyriax Foundation for promotion of education by lecture-demonstrations, video tape recordings and other means. He was known world-wide for his various textbooks of Orthopaedic Medicine, some of which have in the past been reviewed in this journal.

Dr. Cyriax joined the British Association of Sport and Medicine in 1957 and kept up his membership until the end of 1971, several years after his retirement. He participated in several of our meetings and no-one who was present can forget his masterly simultaneous translation feat of all speeches in both languages when our Association entertained a large group of Italian football doctors at the Royal Society of Medicine in 1966 during the Football World Cup.

I last spoke to Dr. Cyriax a couple of years ago at a meeting of the Society of Orthopaedic Medicine at Nottingham. His enthusiasm for his life interest had never waned and he was telling me about the Cyriax Foundation and its objects. He was still keenly interested in medicine right up to the moment of his death.

Medicine, especially orthopaedics and rheumatology, is a family tradition for him. Both his parents were doctors, his mother, Dr. Annjuta Kellgren-Cyriax, was a descendant of the Swedish therapist who, together with Ling, virtually founded the profession of physical education, based on anatomical and physiological principles rather than the military type of drill and exercises then in vogue. Dr. James Cyriax' sister — Dr. Anna Violet Kellgren Cyriax, now living in New Zealand, was a founder member of BASM, and qualified in both medicine and physical education. His aunt, Dr. Hedvig Kellgren-Cyriax was the Newcastle Medical School's oldest graduate and I was privileged to sit opposite to her at an official banquet in Newcastle last year, soon after she had celebrated her 100th birthday, but we regret died in January 1985. Her daughter Enid Houghton was in general practice in Birmingham, and her grand-daughter, Helga, is a venereologist in London.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Dr. Cyriax' widow and their children who are keeping his memory alive with their involvement in the Cyriax Foundation.

H. E. Robson