OBITUARY

Alan Sutcliffe Kerr, MB, ChB, FRCS

ALAN SUTCLIFFE KERR, who pioneered specialist treatment of spinal cord injury in the north-west of England, died on 21 January 1977. He was 67. He graduated in Medicine with First-class Honours in 1932 from Liverpool, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1935 and spent virtually all his professional life in Merseyside.

During the war Alan Sutcliffe Kerr was responsible for organising a neuro-surgical unit as part of emergency medical services in Winnick. To establish a comprehensive neurosurgical department in Merseyside was his dream when he started the Regional Neurosurgical Centre in Walton Hospital, Liverpool, at the inception of the N.H.S., and the opening of the new purpose-built Neurology and Neurosurgery Block in 1972 gave him much pride and happiness.

He recognised the need for specialised treatment of spinal cord injury and formed a separate unit in Winnick which moved in 1947 to the Promenade Hospital, Southport. He was Consultant-in-Charge until 1966 during which time he strove extremely hard against heavy odds to establish an independent and comprehensive spinal injury service in the north-west. After he ceased to be in charge he continued to maintain close contact with Southport and his valuable advice and guidance was much sought after.

A man of enormous compassion and patience, he was a willing listener with whom his patients felt completely at ease. He was a great champion of the disabled and was the first President of the Southport Paraplegic Sports Club. In spite of his heavy professional commitments he found time to pursue his hobby of archaeology seriously and was planning to keep up his visits to the Middle East.

Generations of patients, nurses, doctors and other staff of the Southport Spinal Unit will long remember Alan Sutcliffe Kerr with gratitude and affection.

He is survived by his wife, son and two daughters.

KOOKAL R. KRISHNAN