

PROFILE ON DR HANS L. FRANKEL

Medallist of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia: 1983



DR Hans Frankel was elected Medallist of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia for 1983, and no award could have been more popular, nor better deserved.

Hans was born in 1932 in Danzig of Viennese parents, coming to England before the second World War. He studied at University College Hospital and qualified M.B., B.S., London in 1956. He obtained the M.R.C.P. London in 1964 and was elected a Fellow of the College 12 years later.

Since 1958 his whole life has been devoted to the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, where he was successively Registrar, Senior Registrar and, since 1966, Consultant. There is a sense of justice in that, with his background, Hans should become the pupil, disciple and one of the successors of Ludwig Guttmann. They were closely associated for many years, not only as colleagues but also in such research projects as 'The value of intermittent catheterization in the early management of traumatic paraplegia' and 'The value of postural reduction' (1969).

It must have been an emotional moment for him when the splendid

New Centre was officially opened in August, 1983. Dr Frankel has personally carried out research into the problems of cardiovascular complications in the paraplegic, and his clarity of thought and logical mind help to devise the Stoke Mandeville classification of Spinal Paralysis, which is now accepted all over the medical world. His clinical judgment is balanced and meticulous so that his opinion is sought by colleagues nationwide.

He is honorary consultant to the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, and he has acted as Chairman on several Government Committees, including the Review Committee of the Spinal Injuries Consultants in the United Kingdom, of the British Standards Institute on Wheelchairs.

Members of the International Society will, however, be more concerned with his dedicated work as a Founder Member, Treasurer and, more recently, Secretary—work involving hours of devoted activity and a massive correspondence, both national and international.

Hans Frankel is, however, a man with many interests; a family man with a charming wife and two children, those of us who have visited his delightful home will know how much all this means to him. He is devoted to opera and ski-ing, and is also a most witty and entertaining after dinner speaker, as many of us can testify.

The Society has chosen as recipient of the Medal one of its most distinguished members and one who has served the Society well.

J. COSBIE ROSS
ISAAC NUSEIBEH