

EDITORIAL

It is somehow fitting that spring, the season of birth and rejuvenation, should so often also be the time of year when those advanced in age turn their faces to the wall and, as it were, hand over to the generation that is to come. But this does not mitigate the loss of two of our most distinguished past-presidents. Both were former Moorfields consultants, well into their 'eighties', with a long and varied service to the world of Ophthalmology behind them.

Keith Lyle, who died on May 9, had been our greatest authority on the motor anomalies of the eye ever since his outstanding service to our airforce casualties during the second world war, with a host of publications and an authoratative textbook as his legacy. His energy was prodigious, whether on horseback, on the squash court or striding between his various hospitals; and he presided with equal vigour over our Council, and those of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists and the Society of Apothecaries; he was forthright and unpretentious, with a great capacity for, and evident delight in, his work, as well as a tireless and compelling teacher.

Frank Law, who died on May 27, had served in the first world war before he studied medicine; then, for over 60 years, his life was centred around Moorfields Eye Hospital, so that he was fittingly chosen in his retirement to write the second volume of the Hospital's history (which Treacher Collins covered during its first century—up to 1904). He became Secretary to the Ophthalmological Society in 1938, and continued in this role so as to keep the Society afloat throughout the second world war, emerging as our treasurer in 1947, and he continued to manage our finances for the next 37 years, relinquishing this post only 3 years ago. He was a commanding and colourful personality, with a wide range of interests, a lively wit and a gift for after-dinner speaking, which many were able to enjoy, since, like Keith Lyle, he was in turn President of both the Ophthalmological Society and Faculty of Ophthalmologists, as well as being Master of the Oxford Congress and the Spectacle-makers Company. It would be difficult to overstate his contributions to the wider aspects of British Ophthalmology.

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