OBITUARY

It is with great regret that we have to announce the sudden death last September of Dr. Joseph Melzak in Haifa, Israel.

Dr. Melzak was born in Warsaw, where he received his education and studied medicine. After graduating he became a pupil of the famous neurologist and neuro-anatomist Professor Flatau, and took up practice as a neurologist. When the war broke out in September 1939, he joined the army as a Medical Officer and, following the defeat of the Polish Army, made his way through Rumania and Israel to join the Free Polish Army. He took part in the campaign in the Middle East and Italy including the terrible battle at Monte Casino.

After the Free Polish Army disbanded he joined the National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville, as Medical Officer in 1951. Thanks to his neurological knowledge and understanding of the principles of rehabilitation, he became a great asset to the Unit. In due course he was appointed Senior Medical Officer and later consultant. In 1966, when I retired from the Directorship and Dr. Walsh took over, Dr. Melzak became Deputy Director of the Unit.

Dr. Melzak was interested in research and several useful papers, written either in co-operation with other colleagues or by himself, have been published. He was loved by his patients and respected by his colleagues and staff.

On reaching retirement age, in 1968, he gave up his work in the National Spinal Injuries Centre and emigrated to Israel with his family. There he was appointed as neurologist to an out-patients' clinic in Haifa where he was extremely happy. Even after his first coronary attack, Dr. Melzak was very eager to start work again, but, alas, he succumbed to a further attack shortly afterwards.

Dr. Melzak had a happy family life, and we express our profound sympathy to Bobby, his widow, and his two children.

SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN