

## OBITUARY

### Professor Dr Alfons Lob

It is with great regret we announce that Professor Dr Alfons Lob died on 31 December 1977. Lob was one of the founder members of our Society, a former Vice-President and a member of the Editorial Board of this journal.

Alfons Lob was born on 7 November 1900 in Duisburg and received his medical education at Bonn University where he qualified in 1926. He was assistant to Lexer, Professor of Surgery in Munich, and in 1938 became Dozent at the Medical Faculty of Munich University and in 1944 Associate Professor. After World War II, he became Surgeon in Chief of the Fehmarn Hospital in Northern Germany in 1946 and of the Oldenburg Regional Hospital, Sanderbusch, near Wilhelmshaven, in 1948. From 1955-69 he was the Director of the Accident Hospital of the Industrial Injuries Insurance Institutes in Murnau, Bavaria. After his retirement until his death he was in charge of the Archive of the Research Institute of Traumatology.

Lob has numerous publications to his credit and was co-author of several surgical textbooks. One of his main interests was research on injuries to the spine and in 1949 (second edition 1954) he summarised his great experience in this subject in a book *Injuries to the Vertebral Column and their Management*.

He was one of the first leading surgeons in Germany who became interested in the rehabilitation of spinal cord injured and became one of the pioneers in this subject in Germany. Following a visit to Stoke Mandeville he became convinced of the importance of spinal cord injuries centres and with his enthusiasm and drive he persuaded the authorities of the Industrial Injuries Insurance Institutes to build a magnificent Spinal Injuries Centre in connection with his Accident Hospital which he opened in 1960 in the presence of his friend Sir Ludwig Guttmann.

Alfons Lob was a lovable person, an excellent teacher and was held in highest esteem by his colleagues, pupils, friends and patients. Many honours came his way but he kept his personal modesty and human warmth.

He took great interest in our Society from the start and the Council made him a Vice-President. His name will always be connected with the history of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia.

We express to his widow, herself a doctor, and their two sons, one of whom attended the National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, some years ago, our warmest sympathy.

Dr F. W. MEINECKE