

Paraplegia

Obituaries

James Cosbie Ross, ChM, FRCS (1904–1989)

It is with the deepest regret that I announce the death on 15 September 1989 of our esteemed colleague and most distinguished member of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, Mr James Cosbie Ross. All who were privileged to know Jim, as he was affectionately called, had a delightful, lively, stimulating, warm friend with many and varied interests in medicine, in the church, in the arts—including water colours, music and history—and in his younger days in sailing, shooting and walking. In all of these spheres he took a leading part, being an active participant bubbling over with new ideas which he pursued with intelligent vigour.

I had the good fortune of being closely associated with Jim from the time when we were both founder members of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, in 1961. The late Sir Ludwig Guttmann founded that Society and in 1963 began this journal *Paraplegia*, and he invited Jim and myself to be his Assistant Editors. Indeed Jim continued to do stalwart, exacting, very high calibre work in that capacity until just over a year ago, when he was aged 84 years! These were halcyon days, full of glorious memories. We worked wonderfully well together and did our best to encourage high quality papers on the many aspects of paraplegia. Jim was always available, an indefatigable, dedicated and inspiring colleague. Fortunately it was possible for the Society to present him personally with the Society's 1989 Medal.

In the field of spinal traumatic injury and disease Jim Cosbie Ross made several outstanding original contributions pertaining to genitourinary aspects.

This tall, elegant, debonair, talented gentleman represented the very best in British medicine, greatly appreciated and respected by his peers and adored by his medical students.

Close colleagues in Liverpool, Norman Gibbon and John Goldsmith wrote a Profile on Jim, when he retired, for the second time, in 1987. It was published in the Silver Jubilee Issue of *Paraplegia*, Volume 25 Number 3, 1987, pages 166–167. Brought out vividly there, are several other features of Jim Cosbie Ross in that tribute. His wife, Muriel, died in 1963; he is survived by his daughter and his son, who is a Consultant Gynaecologist.

Phillip Harris

Jess Bedbrook and Betty Hughes

The wives of two of the senior members of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia have tragically died.

Jess, wife of Sir George Bedbrook, died in Perth, Australia, on 8 September 1989.

Betty, wife of Dr J. Trevor Hughes, died in Oxford, UK, on 13 September 1989.

I join with the Members of the Editorial Board in extending our sincere condolences to Sir George and to Dr Trevor Hughes and their families.

Phillip Harris