IN MEMORIAM

Prof. dr. F. D. du Toit van Zijl is op 26 Januarie 1971 skielik aan sy woning in Rondebosch, oorlede.

Prof. Francois Daniël du Toit van Zijl het in 1925 sy M.B., Ch.B. aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad verwerf, in 1931 in Edinburg, Skotland, F.R.C.S. geword en in 1933 sy Meestersgraad in die Chirurgie aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad behaal.

Sedert 1933 was hy algemene praktisyn op Malmesbury totdat hy twee jaar later in Kaapstad begin spesialiseer het en aan die Somerset-hospitaal verbonde was. In 1949 was hy as deeltydse hoogleraar aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad aangestel.

In 1955 is hy aangestel as die eerste hoogleraar in die Chirurgie en Dekaan van die Fakulteit van Geneeskunde aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch. Gedurende hierdie tydperk het hy besonder belang gestel in die vestiging van die paramediese dienste, en dit was grootliks as gevolg van sy inisiatief en ywer dat 'n B.Sc. in Fisioterapie kursus in 1969 aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch ingestel is. Prof. Van Zijl was ook vir die afgelope ag jaar ere vise-president van die Suid-Afrikaanse Fisioterapie Vereniging.

Ons sal hom altyd onthou vir sy kalm optrede wat in alle gevalle vertroue ingeboesem het by diegene wat met hom in aanraking gekom het.

Ons het 'n goeie vriend en steunpilaar verloor en wens ons innige meegevoel te betuig met mev. Issie van Zijl en haar seun.

ABSTRACTS

ABSTRACTS FOR THIRD QUARTER, 1970

Acta Neurol. Scand., 46, 3, 1970:

PEDERSON, E. *et al:* GABA Derivative in spasticity.

Summary: A further study of CIBA 34, 647 Ba in spastic (non-traumatic) paraplegia. The patients in this group suffered mainly from multiple sclerosis, and the effectiveness of CIBA 34, 647 Ba in controlling spasticity and flexor spasms was again confirmed. In this series, however, side effects were noted — in particular loss of muscle power. It was suggested that caution should be exercised in using this compound for mobile patients and in such cases should only be used when the spasticity was of greater severity than the paresis.

Am. J. Physiol., 219, 2, Aug., 1970:

OSCAI, L. B. and HOLLOSZY, J. O.: Weight Reduction in Obese rats by exercise or food restriction: effect on the heart.

Summary: Both groups of rats, treated by exercise or (sedentary) food restriction, lost 26 per cent of their initial body weight over 18 weeks. The food restricted animals' heart weights were, however, significantly reduced, whereas those of the exercised animals were not. It was suggested that exercise can prevent the reduction of heart weight associated with loss of bodyweight.

Develop. Med. Child Neurol., 12, 4, Aug., 1970:

1. GUBBAY, S. S., LOBASCHER, M. and KINGERLEE, P.: A Neurological Appraisal of Autistic Children: Results of a Western Australian survey.

Summary: 56 per cent of the children examined showed unequivocal evidence of organic brain disease, whilst a total of 84 per cent showed evidence suggestive of this. It was felt that primary autism is probably rare, and that autism more usually appears as one feature of widespread brain damage.

2. MACKEITH, R. C.: Annotation: Who Guides the Therapist? Recommended reading.

J. Appl. Physiol., 29, 2, Aug., 1970:

1. KUTA, I., PARÍZKOVÁ, J. and DÝCKA, J.: Muscle Strength and Lean Body Mass in old men of different physical activity.

Summary: Thigh circumference and average muscle strength were significantly higher in most active men in the 7th decade, as compared with inactive men. By the 8th decade, the total and lean body weight were also higher in active men, and their muscle strength was equivalent to that of inactive men 10 years younger. The decrease in muscle strength with ageing was, however, more marked in the most active men.

J. Neurol., Neurosurg., Psychiat., 33, 4, Aug., 1970:

1. Wiederholt, W. C.: Stimulus Intensity and Site of Excitation in Human Median Nerve Sensory Fibres.

Summary: In the past it has been accepted that large diameter nerve fibres have lower thresholds and faster conduction velocities than small diameter nerve fibres. More recent studies have, however, been contradictory, some workers (Hodes *et al*, 1965; Drechsler and Lastovka, 1968) concluding that, in human motor nerves, low threshold fibres conduct more slowly than high threshold fibres. The author undertook a further study attempting to explain these discrepancies as different interpretations of the effective point of nerve excitation at different stimulus intensities. It was found that as stimulus voltage increased, both latencies and amplitude of nerve action potentials decreased, whilst conduction velocities remained unchanged. The decreased latency was interpreted as movement of the effective point of excitation away from the stimulating cathode. It was also found that, in the human median nerve, the fastest conducting sensory fibres do have a lower threshold than slowly conducting fibres.