

OBITUARIES

Arthur Ruscoe Davison, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.) 1901-1974

Dr. Davison died on 18 October 1974 at the age of 73 years. He was born 16 March 1901 in Queenstown, South Africa, attended Rondebosch Boys' High School and the University of Cape Town, and then furthered his studies in London.

In 1926 he was appointed medical officer at the Robben Island Leprosy Institution. Thereafter he became medical officer at the leprosy institution at Emjanyana in the Transkei, where he worked for 13 years. In 1939 he became medical superintendent of the Westfort Leprosy Institution in Pretoria, where he remained for 25 years until his retirement to Durban in 1964. After his retirement he was appointed in 1969 as part-time district surgeon in Durban and served *locum tenens* at Amatikulu Leper Institute until 1973.

Dr. Davison devoted his life to work in leprosy and was a well-known leprologist.

He attended the international congresses on leprosy in Madrid, Cuba and Japan and visited leprosy institutions in South America as well. He served as a consultant to the Leonard Wood Memorial, U.S.A., as an International Leprosy Association Councillor from South Africa for 15 years, and as a contributing editor to the IJL. He authored approximately 40 publications in various leprosy journals, beginning with "Leprosy of the Scalp" in 1926.

He was privileged to see the introduction of sulfone treatment which was first used in 1943 and which changed the institutions in his area from places of desolation to places of hope. Dr. Davison will especially be remembered for his great kindness and for the wonderful sense of humor that meant so much to his patients during his 39 years of devoted service to them.—(*Partially abstracted from S. Afr. Med. J.* **48** [1974] 2608)