

PROFESSOR JOHN H GREEN

born 29 July 1919 – died 25 August 2000

Professor John Green was not only a colleague in the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, but a friend and mentor. He spent most of his academic life in the Department of Physiology, a department which, under the leadership of Professor Samson Wright, had earned a reputation for excellence in teaching. John Green continued the tradition.

He was born on 29th July, 1919 and at a very young age showed an interest in electronics, making a television set while he was still at Westcliffe High School in Essex. His interest in technology not only benefited staff and students in the Medical School, but also his two sons for whom, amongst other things, he built a miniature railway in the garden. He was a student at Cambridge, where he obtained a natural science tripos, and then at the Middlesex. However his studies were interrupted by the Second World War, when his early bent for technology was harnessed by the School of Signals at Catterick. He made significant contributions, ending the war as a major. His circuit drawing technique was adopted by REME.

After qualifying in 1951, he embarked on research into the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, obtaining a PhD in 1954. He was elected to the Physiological Society in 1958 and became a Reader in 1960. The title of Professor was conferred on him in 1968. As well as publishing many research papers, his technological creativity led at one time to him holding three patents, including a finger cuff for monitoring post-operative blood pressure. He also published on teaching, which he, again, approached with

enthusiasm. Generations of students, both medical students and nurses, benefited from his clear concise summaries and the elegant models he prepared to demonstrate a point. His understanding of the requirements of what we now call the 'core curriculum' led to his publishing *An Introduction into Human Physiology* in 1963. This text, with its numerous simple line diagrams and flow charts, became a best seller and was translated into several languages. John Green was particularly proud of the Japanese edition. This was followed by *Basic Clinical Physiology* in 1969 and an *Introduction to Human Anatomy* which he wrote with Professor PHS Silver in 1981.

He was able to make good use of his knowledge of technology in developing novel techniques for teaching Physiology. Under his chairmanship, the Audio-visual Aids Subcommittee of the Board of Studies in Physiology of London University produced a series of tapes booklet programmes supported by WHO and at the Middlesex he set up a superbly equipped studio to prepare videos etc for teaching. It is hardly surprising that, given his love of the subject, his two sons followed him into medicine. Despite his many activities, his family was always very important to him and in recent years he was able to enjoy the company of his grandchildren. Sadly, his wife Lynda died in 1998.

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