D. Evans (1919-2010)

David Evans who died quietly at home in March of this year was a remarkable man. He was our longest serving Chairman, being Chairman of the Council of Management of the JBJS(B) from 1975 to 1992. He held many other high offices in our specialty. He had a very distinct, quiet and persuasive style of management which made him extremely popular. He was known for his soft voice and the mild grip of your elbow, which he employed when he had a particular task for you.

David's father (Arthur) and brother (Briant) were surgeons who, like him, qualified from and worked at The Westminster Hospital in Central London. After going to Rugby School and Gonville and Caius College Cambridge, David qualified in 1942. He subsequently served extensively as a Surgeon Lieutenant in the Royal Navy both in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and was medical officer to Lord Mountbatten's Fleet, which at the end of the war in 1945 accepted the surrender of the Japanese in North Sumatra. After the war he continued his training in London. He was an ABC Travelling Fellow in 1956 and the following year was appointed as a consultant in South-end, returning to The Westminster Hospital in 1959, subsequently also adding sessions at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton and St. Stephens Hospital. He later served as Chairman of the Medical Committee and a Member of the Board of Governors at The Westminster Hospital and the Council of the Medical School. To each of these roles he brought his particular persuasive style.

David published extensively, being perhaps best known for his modification of the technique of lateral stabilisation of the ankle for a recurrent instability, which was published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* in 1953. He was President of the Orthopaedic section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1979 and used his Presidential address, which he entitled 'The Other Side of Medicine', to outline his views on the art of obtaining the confidence of, and a good history from, patients of all ages, with compassion, understanding and loving care. His main concern throughout his career was his ability to understand and reflect the attitudes, opinions and concerns of his patients and colleagues.

He had a long and close relationship with our journal, joining the Editorial Board in 1962, becoming Treasurer in 1972 and Chairman in 1975. He was President of the British Orthopaedic Association in 1980, and in his Presidential address discussed the history of the JBJS and its pre-eminent position in

We are grateful to Chelsea and Westminster Health Charity for providing the photograph.

teaching and reporting advances in orthopaedics internationally. He retired from The Westminster Hospital in 1985 and when this hospital closed and the new Chelsea and Westminster Hospital was opened nearby in west London in 1993, the medical staff were very pleased to have their orthopaedic patients on the David Evans Ward and to have his portrait painted by June Mendoza at its entrance. In retirement David continued as Chairman of the Journal until 1992.

His familiar soft voice was partly as a result of a laryngeal carcinoma, which was successfully treated by radiotherapy in 1977. David married Betty McCrea in 1950. Known as Bets, she was his constant companion with her own very characteristic, complementary, warm, and comforting style. They had known each other since childhood. Bets had trained as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital. They lived in Wimbledon and had four children, a son (Tim) who also trained at the Westminster Hospital and is a distinguished general practitioner in London, and three daughters (Joey, Pippi, and Jilly). David had very extensive sporting and musical interests. He was a keen fly fisherman, golfer and skier. He founded the British Orthopaedic Skiing Group, which continues to meet annually in Zurs, Austria with papers and music in the evenings in the way that he prescribed, and now has a very large membership. He was a proud captain of the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club in 1981. He also loved the piano and playing Bridge. Although Bets pre-deceased him by three years, despite various new joints and extensive spinal decompressive surgery, he continued playing golf until a few weeks before his death. He also continued travelling extensively to visit his family, particularly in Australia and America.

We were a very large celebratory gathering at St. Mary's, Wimbledon, on a bright spring afternoon on March 29th when, with many contributions from various generations of his now very large family, we were able to record our gratitude to David and to remind ourselves of his central beliefs of compassion and understanding.

J. Scott