

Mr David Band, FRCSE, FRSE

Mr David Band, Reader Emeritus in Urological Surgery in the University of Edinburgh and Consulting Editor of the British Journal of Urology, died on 6 April 1988 at his home in Ledaig, Argyll. Mr Band was born in Edinburgh in 1901 and educated at George Watson's School. He graduated MB,ChB at Edinburgh University in 1923 and 3 years later became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Thereafter he held various surgical appointments in Leith Hospital, in the Hospital for Diseases of Women in Archibald Place and in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, until 1935 when he became a Lecturer in Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh and Assistant Surgeon at the Western General Hospital. His lifelong interest in urology was stimulated by Sir Henry Wade, with whom he wrote a paper on excretion urography in 1930, and he gradually devoted himself more and more to urology, eventually becoming Consultant Urological Surgeon at the Western General Hospital and Lecturer, later Reader, in Urology in the University of Edinburgh. Despite extensive clinical commitments he did much clinical research, especially on renal tuberculosis, and to compare his Honyman Gillespie lecture of 1942 on urogenital tuberculosis with his President's Address to the Royal Society of Medicine in 1956 on the same subject illustrates the enormous changes in the treatment and prognosis of that disease with the advent of chemotherapy. His interests in urology were diverse and his many papers include several on the neurogenic bladder and cystometry, the first in 1945 when he used a machine with a smoked drum which is still in the Department. He was always enthusiastic about new concepts and particularly thrilled to be part of the team when Sir Michael Woodruff carried out the first successful renal transplantation in the United Kingdom on 30 October 1960.

After the Second World War he confined himself to urology and on 17 March 1945 he attended the inaugural meeting of the British Association of Urological Surgeons and became a Foundation Member. He served that Association as a Member of the Council from 1945 to 1949, as Honorary Editorial Secretary from 1949 to 1952 and again from 1955 to 1958, as Vice President from 1958 to 1959 and as President from 1959 to 1961. In 1962 he was awarded the St Peter's Medal. He was Editor of the British Journal of Urology from 1949,



when he succeeded Mr H. P. Winsbury-White, until he retired in 1966. He was a Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh from 1956 to 1969 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1950.

Mr Band was not only a distinguished surgeon who combined clinical work with research and the activities of his college and professional associations but also a distinguished citizen of Edinburgh who played his full part in its civic life. He was an elder of St Giles' Cathedral, Honorary Secretary of the Edinburgh Graduates' Association from 1934 to 1955 and its President from 1966 to 1968. In 1939 he succeeded Sir David Wilkie as Chairman of the Edinburgh University Settlement, which is a caring link between the University and the local community, between Town and Gown, which does much to help and educate less fortunate citizens. Mr Band retired in 1966 to Ledaig in Argyll and unlike many of his colleagues did no further surgery or took more than a passing interest in surgical affairs; yet he never lost his enormous interest in people (his hobby was people); he became an elder of the local church and helped with the affairs of the small community to which he had retired. Recently, a patient of David's who was severely wounded in 1945 at the age of 19 and looked after by numerous surgeons, said "I used to dread Surgeons, but David was a different kettle of fish".

Mr Band is survived by his wife, Betty, his three children and his grandchildren.

J.E.N.