

JOHN ALEXANDER ROSS (1908-1997)

John Ross's professional life as a consultant radiologist in Liverpool hospitals has been noted in obituaries in medical journals. I knew him only in retirement, but that was in connection with our Society. He was one of the founder members and he advised me on those former medical colleagues who should be invited to join the founding committee. For several years he never failed to attend committee meetings, just as he was until recently a most faithful attender at our lecture meetings. At the latter he was the chairman's joy, inasmuch as it was his habit to respond immediately to the request for 'Questions or comments, please!' which normally brings a long and embarrassing silence. John rose to his feet and invariably began by complimenting the speaker on his talk, before asking a pertinent and well-informed question.

After meetings, until our night eyes gave out, we drove home together, and I learned to appreciate his gentleness and courtesy. He gave me copies of his publications in medical history (notably *A Medical Student in Paris in 1832* (1981) and the biography of Agnes Jones of Liverpool (1988) which he wrote with his brother), and he latterly handed over a package containing some of the material of Liverpool medical history which he had collected over the decades (this went to the university archives).

We disagreed (silently) only over one topic, the new prayerbook adopted at our local church, John being a traditionalist. This did not prevent him, a couple of years back, and at his age, from acquiring a word processor and attempting to learn to use it. John had much to do with the successful build-up of this society and we remember him with pleasure and pride.

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