

Obituary H. B. Eckstein MA, MD, MChir, FRCS



Mr. *Herbert Eckstein*, formerly Consultant Paediatric Surgeon to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, and Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, died on the 5 November after a long illness. He was 60.

Mr. *Eckstein* was born into a distinguished medical family. Both his father and grandfather were Professors of Paediatrics in Dusseldorf. The family left Germany in the early 1930s and settled in Turkey where his father helped to establish the Paediatric Department at the Hacettepe Children's Hospital. Mr. *Eckstein* was sent to England as a young boy to be educated. He went to Leys School, Cambridge and then to Clare College, Cambridge, for his preclinical studies and Middlesex Hospital Medical School. He graduated in 1950 having won the Freeman Scholarship. He was admitted to the FRCS in 1957. His general surgical training was at Addendbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Having shown an interest in paediatric surgery as a Senior House Surgeon at Great Ormond Street, he received an invitation in 1958 to become the first consultant paediatric surgeon in Turkey, based at the Hacettepe Children's Hospital, Ankara. He was remarkably successful in coping with the clinical and administrative duties involved in establishing a new paediatric surgical unit at an unusually early stage in his career. In 1961 he returned to England to continue his career in paediatric surgery as Resident Assistant Surgeon at Great Ormond Street. He held consultant paediatric surgical appointments at Sydenham Children's Hospital and at Tadworth Children's Hospital, before being appointed at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, in 1963. He remained in

this post until ill-health forced him into early retirement earlier this year.

In his early years as a Consultant, Mr. *Eckstein* travelled widely throughout the South of England consulting on paediatric surgical problems and conducting regular clinics as Honorary Advisor in Spina bifida to the Wessex Regional Hospital Board. His main interests were in the fields of paediatric urology and spina bifida. He was a member amongst others of the Society for Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida, the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons and the Society of Paediatric Urological Surgeons.

He was an Honorary Member of the German Society of Paediatric Surgeons and corresponding member of the German Urologic Association. His magnum opus was *Surgical Pediatric Urology*, published in 1977, a magnificently illustrated textbook on Operative Urology, which he edited with *R. Hohenfellner* and *D. Innes-Williams*.

From 1969 Mr. *H. B. Eckstein* was Member of the Editorial Board of the "Zeitschrift für Kinderchirurgie (Surgery in Infancy and Childhood)". He wrote many excellent articles for our journal and for up to five years he performed all the necessary English translations. It is Mr. *Eckstein's* merit, that the results of the annual meeting of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina bifida are published regularly in the "Zeitschrift für Kinderchirurgie". Mr. *Eckstein* took an active and energetic part in our Editorial Board and was an encouraging and supporting friend of all those who knew him closely. The Editorial Board of the "Zeitschrift für Kinderchirurgie" will always be conscious of his great help and friendship.

L. Spitz, A. M. Holschneider