

James Spence Medallist, 1986

Sir Peter Tizard

The James Spence Medal was presented to Sir Peter Tizard on 16 April 1986 by Professor J O Forfar, President of the British Paediatric Association, who gave the following citation:

The James Spence Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to the advancement or clarification of paediatric knowledge and is the highest award the British Paediatric Association (BPA) can confer. The recipient in 1986 is Sir Peter Tizard.

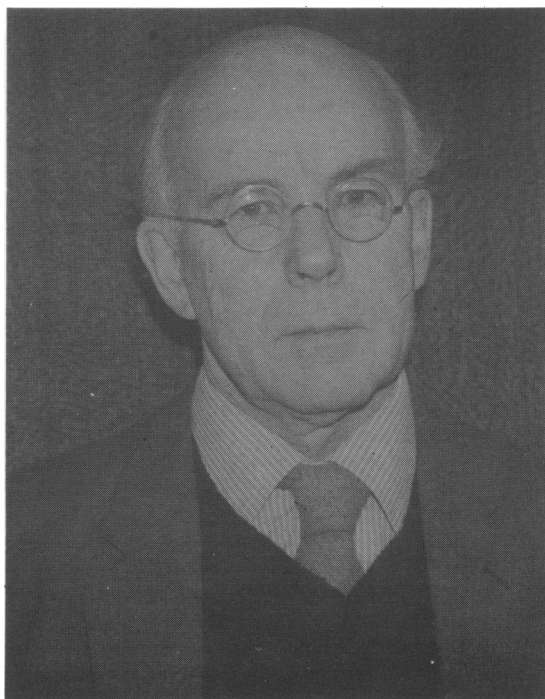
Peter Tizard was born with two advantages. Firstly, he was born into a scientific environment, the son of a distinguished scientist. Secondly, he was born on April 1, an event that doubtless stimulated him to discount the presumption that the uncharitable might make in respect of that birth date.

Sir Peter was educated at Rugby, Oriel College, Oxford, and the Middlesex Hospital: he served in the army for four years, returning to pursue a career in paediatrics that led him from Great Ormond Street to St Mary's Hospital, Queen Square, and Harvard.

In 1954 he was appointed Reader in Paediatrics to the Institute of Child Health and Honorary Consultant Paediatrician to Hammersmith Hospital. Ten years later, jointly within the Institute and Royal Postgraduate Medical School, he was appointed to the first Chair of Paediatrics to Hammersmith Hospital. In 1972 he was appointed to the newly created Chair of Paediatrics to the University of Oxford, retiring from that post in 1983.

It would, I think, be fair to say that in this country Sir Peter is one of the outstanding paediatricians, perhaps the outstanding paediatrician, of his time. Within paediatrics he has made important academic contributions to neonatology and paediatric neurology. At Hammersmith he did much to build up an academic neonatal unit that pioneered and established neonatal paediatrics in this country and exemplified the scientific basis on which such units should develop. At Oxford he further developed paediatrics in the twin disciplines of neonatology and neurology, creating a coordinated academic unit of international renown.

In the wider field of child health Sir Peter has proved himself a national leader of paediatric thought and action. During his Presidency of the BPA the Association achieved an enhanced national



importance and status. He set about establishing links with the many organisations with which paediatrics must relate if a truly comprehensive child health service is to be created; he played an important part in establishing the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit and he represented our Association with distinction at home and abroad. In addition to his academic and executive abilities Peter has a unique capacity for forthright expression and ability to discount cant and humbug. He is by nature a scholar, a philosopher, and a man of humour. These personal qualities are represented in his favourite authors Dr Johnson and Lord Macaulay, representing precision, authority, and men of letters, and Jane Austen and P G Wodehouse, representing humour and understanding of human nature: all four masters in the use of the English language.

Sir Peter's record as teacher, researcher, and

leader of paediatric thought has been widely recognised. He has been invited to give at least 15 named guest lectures. He is an honorary or corresponding member of at least a dozen national paediatric societies. He has been the Dawson Williams Prize-man of the British Medical Association. He is a Past Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. He was knighted in 1982.

A previous Spence Medallist of this Association was the late Dr D W Winnicott who on account of

the contribution to paediatrics that he recognised Sir Peter to be making gave his Spence Medal to Sir Peter. Sir Peter has suggested, and the Association has agreed, that that medal should have Sir Peter's name added to it and presented to him today. This must be the first occasion on which the Spence Medal and Bar has been awarded.

Sir Peter, in recognition of your many achievements and with a sense of great affection and respect, the Association awards you the Spence Medal.

James Spence Medallists

1960 Professor A A Moncrieff
1961 Professor R A McCance
1963 Sir F Macfarlane Burnet
1964 Professor L S Penrose
1965 Dr Cicely D Williams
1967 Professor R R A Coombs
1968 Dr Mary D Sheridan
Dr D W Winnicott
1969 Dr G S Dawes
1970 Professor D V Hubble
1971 Dr W W Payne
1972 Dr R C Mac Keith

1973 Professor C A Clarke
1974 Dr J Bowlby
1976 Dr D M T Gairdner
1977 Professor R S Illingworth
1978 Dr S D M Court
1979 Professor K W Cross
1980 Professor J M Tanner
1981 Dr Elsie M Widdowson
1982 Dr D MacCarthy
1983 Professor J O Forfar
1984 Dr J W B Douglas
1985 Dr N S Gordon