

## Who's Who in Orthopedics

noted in describing Dr. Slocum, that he approached “the whole business of the knee and its intricacies with a healthy measure of scholarly curiosity, a bit of respect for the Original Designer, and enough self-effacing wit to keep his considerable technical accomplishments in perspective.”

Not all of Dr. Slocum's contributions were related to surgery, however. He was well aware of social problems, and was always looking for ways to improve the human condition. In 1947, he was instrumental in establishing the Easter Seal School and Treatment Center in Eugene. For years he sponsored scholarships for students in sports at the University of Oregon and served on the Board of the University of Oregon Development Fund. An avid historian, he lectured on subjects relating to the pioneers, the growth of the colonies, and the courage of our forebears.

Dr. Slocum's desire for learning was unquenchable. Even on his death bed, ill with leukemia, he read computer books and magazines, trying to comprehend another world. Dr. Stan James described the essence of Donald Slocum's thirst for knowledge: “If Don was set down in the middle of the Sahara Desert, he would have learned all that there was to learn about each grain of sand there.”

On July 3, 1983, the world lost one of its greatest innovators, master surgeons, and teachers. Recognized by orthopedists and sports-medicine specialists as a giant in his field, Dr. Slocum made innumerable contributions to his associates, as well as to the multitude of patients under his surgical care. Guided by a strong desire to learn and contribute, Dr. Slocum changed the direction of orthopedic surgery and made an incredible difference to the world at large.

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## **Ian Scott SMILLIE**

1907–1992

Ian Smillie's career was guided by the pursuit of excellence and a single-minded intent to establish orthopedic surgery as a specialty in its own right. He became a leading world authority on the knee.

He graduated from Edinburgh University in 1931 and obtained the Fellowships of the Royal Colleges of Edinburgh and of Glasgow in 1935. After 3 years as a clinical assistant to Sir Walter Mercer, he was placed in charge of the war-time Emergency Medical Service Orthopedic Hospital at Larbert in 1939. There he developed a team of expert surgeons, nurses and therapists and an orthopedic workshop, which eventually spawned virtually all the senior orthotists in Scotland. When he left this hospital, which housed 500 patients, he was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

In 1948 he became surgeon-in-charge of the orthopedic service of the Eastern Region of Scotland and also gained the Gold Medal at the ChM examination of the University of Edinburgh. He was a Nuffield Traveling Fellow to the United States of America and Canada in the same year. At the Bridge of Earn Hospital, he further developed his team concept and his ideas on the continuum of rehabilitation—each trainee spent one element of his rotation in the hospital's rehabilitation unit. He also established orthopedic clinics in Dundee, not with the entire approval of some of the general surgeons.

In 1967, he was appointed professor of orthopedics in a newly established chair of the Uni-

versity of St. Andrews. When the advanced medical school was transferred to Dundee, he became professor of orthopedics of that university. By this time he had established himself as one of the few world authorities on the knee, while continuing to be a brilliant and inventive surgeon, as well as an unusually charismatic and effective teacher. This was recognized by invitations to teach in many parts of the world, including North, Central and South America, Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Near and Far East. In all these places his monographs on *Injuries of the Knee Joint* and *Diseases of the Knee Joint* had preceded him. The first went into five editions and was translated into several languages. These publications were the result of personal observation, data collection, careful pathological analysis and considered judgment. The operations that he described were effective and saved many knees from considerable malfunction. Although some of these procedures have been superseded by new technology, the basic principles of comprehensive assessment, accurate diagnosis, and progressive rehabilitation still hold. Smillie's academic and professional career was finally capped by his presidency of the International Society of the Knee from 1981 to 1983.

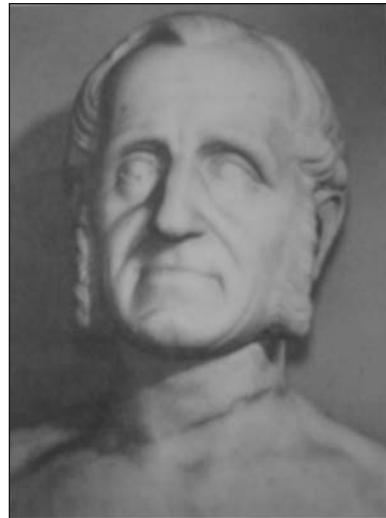
He had many interests outside medicine: he raced exotic cars at Brooklands in the 1930s, and his serious interests included philately and photography. His pervasive interests were farming, fishing and stalking—he published *A Guide to the Stalking of Red Deer in Scotland* in 1983.

Ian Smillie was a complex character; sometimes defensive, always enthusiastic, lacing his discussion and instruction with humor. He could be cutting in debate, but equally generous in praise when this was deserved. On one occasion, an arch-rival attacked his techniques and the knives that he had designed, saying "The only use for which I can recommend Mr. Smillie's knives is to sharpen pencils." The auditorium was silent with expectation as Smillie rose. He looked around, then said "I have to agree with Mr. X." The audience was astonished. He waited for what seemed an age, then continued—"The best possible use Mr. X can make of these knives is to sharpen pencils". He was basically a very generous man and marvelously hospitable, as many surgeons from different parts of the world will testify.

His contribution to knee surgery was immense and surgeons everywhere will miss him, as will all the "boys" whom he trained, not only for what

he gave them, but also for his style, and a certain flamboyance. I remember my first sight of him in hospital whites, smoking a Burma cheroot; a more persistent image through the ensuing years was of the "wee man" dressed in an elegantly tailored dark coat and a wide-brimmed, black fedora.

Sadly, his final years were marred by severe physical disability, although his mind remained as alert as ever. Throughout this time he was cared for by his wife Jenny with unfailing devotion. He died at his home near Blairgowrie in his 84th year. He was survived by Jenny, two daughters from his first marriage and Jenny's three children.



## Robert William SMITH

1807–1873

Robert William Smith spent his entire life in Dublin. Among his colleagues were Adams, Cheyne, Graves, Stokes, and Colles, and in this group he was considered an equal. Although he became a professor of surgery at Trinity College, it is in surgical pathology that he made his greatest contributions. His name is kept alive in the surgical literature by its association with a fracture of the distal radius, Smith's fracture.

In 1849, 33 years before the report of von Recklinghausen, Smith published a monograph, *A Treatise on the Pathology, Diagnosis and Treatment of Neuroma*, containing an extensive review of the literature as well as his own observations. These include the report of two cases of neuro-