

Pioneer of Paediatric Anesthesia: Gordon Jackson Rees

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Abstract

Gordon Jackson Rees, known to all his friends as 'Jack', was born on 8 December 1918. He was educated at Oswestry School and entered the University of Liverpool to study medicine in 1937, and qualified M.B.Ch.B. in late 1942. His scholastic achievements, by his standards, were modest and gave little hint of his later academic brilliance and practical innovative ability. Early in 1943, Jack was called up into the Royal Air Force medical branch and served as a station medical officer before being sent to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, to study anaesthesia under Professor Robert Macintosh and William Mushin. He obtained the one part Diploma in Anaesthetics in 1946. He became a consultant anaesthetist to the Royal Liverpool Hospitals in 1949 and, on the invitation of Professor Cecil Gray, joined the new University Department of Anaesthesia as a part time demonstrator. The current article is to enlighten the work of this brilliant "Pioneer of paediatric anaesthesia"

Keywords: Pediatric anesthesia; Gordon Jackson; Triad of anesthesia.

Introduction

Gordon was a consultant anaesthetist to the Royal

Liverpool Hospitals in 1949 and joined the new university department of anaesthesia as a part-time demonstrator. Together with Professor Cecil Gray, using different drugs to produce specific effects, he introduced the revolutionary concept of the "triad of anaesthesia." Shortly afterwards Jack, as he was known, was persuaded to help develop paediatric anaesthesia. The so-called Jackson Rees technique of paediatric anaesthesia initially developed as a result of his experiences in adult anaesthesia and an intense desire to humanise the management of children in hospital. This technique soon became known throughout other paediatric centres and, as a result, he travelled widely as a visiting professor and invited

lecturer, and was presented with many prestigious awards. He became known as a superb speaker, a witty panelist, and a persuasive debater. His writings are a model of lucidity and a pleasure to read, though he confessed that he was a reluctant writer.[1]

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remembered as one of the pioneers and developers of paediatric anaesthesia and was known with Gray for the "the Liverpool technique" Also he developed Jackson Rees modification of the Ayres T-piece for the ventilation of babies and small children.

Jack assisted to Miss Forshall, a paediatric surgeon with whom he developed the paediatric anesthesia branch. He had an intense desire to humanise the management of children in hospital.

In 1950, he published an article in the *British Medical Journal* on Neonatal Anesthesia. It gave him wide publicity as a pediatric anesthetist.[1,2]

Positions

- Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.
- Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Honors

- Awarded by the Medal for the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

- Frederick Hewitt Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of England
- Henry Hill Hickman Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine, London
- John Snow Medal of the Association of Anesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
- Robert M. Smith Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Founder member and later a President of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
- First President of the federation of Association of European Associations of Paediatric Anaesthesia.
- Honorary citizen of the ancient university city of Coimbra, Portugal

Dr Jackson Rees died on 19 January 2001.

References

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