

HENRY E HOBBS, FRCS, DOMS, DO 1910–1990

Henry Hobbs died on 3 October 1990 aged 80. He was formerly consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital and Maida Vale Hospital for Nervous Diseases and honorary consultant to Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. An obituary notice in the *British Medical Journal* stated that during his working life ophthalmology matured as a surgical specialty and scientific discipline and that he played a significant part in this. His contributions were numerous and he had a particular interest in glaucoma, the use of lasers in diabetic retinopathy, the retinotoxicity of chloroquine and the ocular complications of leprosy.

I should like to give further details on this latter fact. Henry Hobbs was the honorary ophthalmic consultant to the Hospital and Homes of St Giles for sufferers from leprosy at East Hanningfield, Essex for 24 years and during that time he had the care of a very considerable number of patients with ocular complications of all degrees of severity. He was a most kind and courteous man and showed meticulous care in his examination, treatment and follow-up of all his patients over the years. He published several articles in leprosy journals on the blinding lesions of leprosy and he introduced the simple pen-torch illuminated loupe, which has been of great help in the diagnosis of uveitis to many leprologists working under field conditions. He was always willing to give time to train doctors in the detailed examination of the eyes in leprosy. He paid visits to several centres abroad, in particular Sungei Buloh, Malaysia and Chikankata, Zambia to make surveys and to assist and train the local workers in the management of eye conditions. In his last working year he cooperated in a joint investigation into the ocular histopathology of animals experimentally infected with *Mycobacterium leprae* and *M. lepraemurium*. His work was always of the highest standard and he will be remembered with affection and gratitude by many people.

D J HARMAN