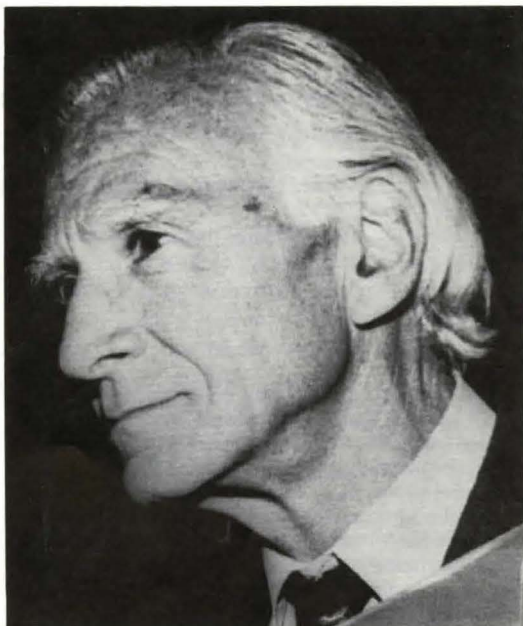


## IN MEMORIAM

### John B. Kinmonth



John B. Kinmonth, Emeritus Professor of Surgery at St. Thomas's Hospital, died on September 17, 1982.

Born in County Clare in the west of Ireland, the son of a physician, he received his medical training and then served as resident surgeon at the RAF, he became a research assistant in the Department of Surgery at St. Bartholomew's Hospital under *James Patterson Ross*. During 1948-1949 he worked in the surgical research laboratories at the Massachusetts General Hospital with Dr. *F.A. Simeone*. The use of papaverine to relieve arterial spasm and the knowledge that intimal disruption rather than spasm is the predominant cause of post-traumatic arterial insufficiency were direct outgrowths of this work. Returning to *Bart's* as assistant director, he continued his studies of vascular surgery and at this point, fate intervened. As related by Professor *Norman Browse* in a warm tribute to *John Kinmonth*, published recently in the *Lancet*, *John* overheard a remark by *James Patterson Ross* calling attention to the fact that no method was available for radiographic visualization of the lymphatic system. And so it was that in the *Dunn* laboratories of *Bart's* in 1951, *John Kinmonth* began the epochal studies which were to become his life's work. He returned to St. Thomas's as chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1955 where his success in treating disorders of the lymphatic system became an

achievement equalled by only a handful of contemporaries.

The studies initiated by *John Kinmonth* in 1951 have changed a whole area of medicine. Contributions of new knowledge based on radiographic examination of the lymphatic system continue to appear in almost endless succession. He earned the gratitude of patients from all over the world who journeyed to St. Thomas's to benefit directly from his knowledge and surgical skill. Countless others will continue to receive such benefits indirectly at the hands of others.

He retired from his professorial duties last year and with the devoted help of his wife *Kathleen*, dedicated himself to the preparation of the 2nd edition of his now classic work — the *Lymphatics*. Those who saw him for the last time at the Congress in Montreal in 1981 will not soon forget his serenity and his ability to so detach himself from his illness that many of his friends remained unaware of it.

We are grateful for a life filled with warmth and grace but are saddened by the thought he did not have more years after the routine of the clinic had ceased. We shall not see his better in lymphology nor indeed is he likely to have many equals.

*Allan E. Dumont, M.D.*