

## Obituary

### PROFESSOR ROBERT WALMSLEY

(1906–1998)

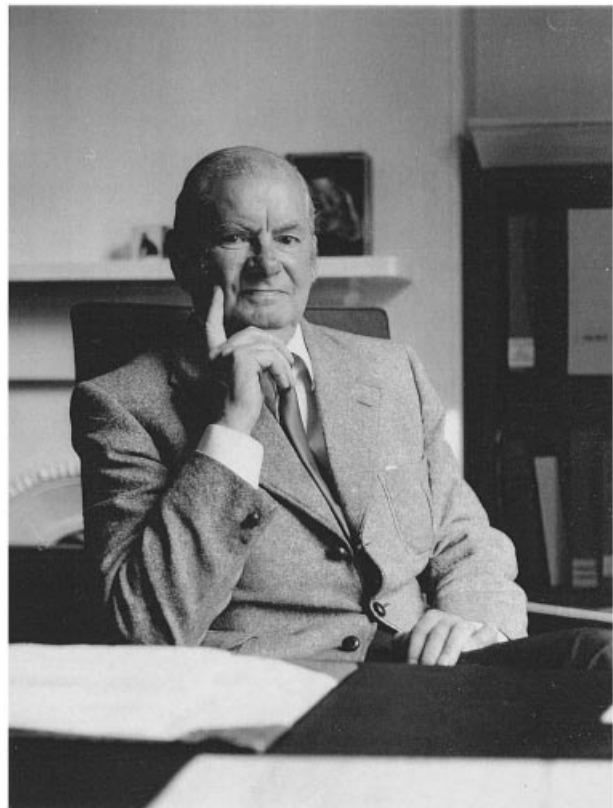
Robert Walmsley, Emeritus Professor of Anatomy at the University of St Andrews, died on 24 August 1998 aged 92. He was appointed Bute Professor of Anatomy in St Andrews University in 1946, after a distinguished career in the University of Edinburgh, where he was appointed demonstrator in Anatomy with J. C. Brash as professor and E. B. Jamieson as senior lecturer. He carried out studies on the vertebral column and the knee joint with John Bruce (later Sir John Bruce), Professor of Surgery in Edinburgh, with whom he was associated in the production of 3 editions of a textbook of surgical anatomy. His work on the vascular system of the whale, conducted at the Carnegie Institute of Embryology in Baltimore, USA, was the subject of his thesis for the MD (Edinburgh University) which was awarded with honours and gold medal in 1937.

Robert Walmsley joined a Territorial Army RAMC Unit in 1938 and spent the greater part of the Second World War in the Middle East as a pathologist with the rank of major. He was subsequently awarded the Territorial Decoration.

During his tenure of the Bute Chair of Anatomy in St Andrews from 1946 until his retirement in 1973 he devoted himself to teaching, research and administration. His former students will remember his clear exposition of anatomical principles and his emphasis on the clinical relevance of their anatomical studies. He knew his students individually and was always readily available with wise counsel for those with academic or personal problems. He was noted for the consistency of his dealings with colleagues in the teaching and technical staff. Robert Walmsley's interest in student welfare, and the high regard in which he was held, were recognised in his election as honorary president of the British Medical Students' Association for the year 1955–56.

His research continued in St Andrews with a special interest in the clinical anatomy of the heart with several publications—even after his retirement—and the production, with Hamish Watson, of the first textbook on the clinical anatomy of the heart.

One of the tributes he valued most highly was the Honorary Fellowship of the Association of Clinical Anatomists, conferred in 1980. He was elected Fellow



of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1953 and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1965. He was visiting professor in 3 overseas universities and over many years examined in the Primary Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons. He was external examiner in many universities. He was Master of the United College in St Andrews in 1957–59, and in recognition of his distinguished career and his services to the university he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in 1972 at the time of the last medical graduation (as far as could be foretold) to be held in St Andrews. He had been elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1945. Robert Walmsley was strongly influenced in his approach to teaching and anatomical problems by his elder brother, Thomas, who held the Chair of Anatomy in Queen's University, Belfast.

Professor Walmsley is survived by his wife Isabel, a medical graduate of Aberdeen University, his 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.

JOHN FRAME AND DAVID SINCLAIR