Obituary

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Stanley Walker, BSc, PhD

Dr Stanley Walker, who was Director of the Cytogenetics Unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, died after a short illness on 5 July 1985, aged 61.

Following war service in the Royal Navy, in which he was commissioned from 1944, he proceeded to Leeds University where he gained a BSc (First Class) Honours Degree in Botany. Encouraged by Professor Irene Manton he began his study of ferns and in 1953 obtained a PhD on the Cytogenetics of the Genus *Dryopteris*. In the same year he was appointed Lecturer in the Botany Department of Liverpool University where he continued his

notable work on plant cytogenetics. His expertise was later recognised by an invitation to become President of the British Pteridological Society. In association with Professor Phillip Sheppard they formed the Department of Genetics at Liverpool University and he was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1963. As a most lucid and inspiring lecturer, his students will always remember him for his excellent guidance and meticulous attention to detail. While the study of Human Genetics was still in its infancy he established a diagnostic Cytogenetics Unit in Liverpool which expanded rapidly owing to his enthusiastic drive. After moving in 1967 into the new Nuffield Medical Genetics building, Dr Walker maintained close collaboration and friendship with Sir Cyril Clarke who was then Professor of Medicine. Under Dr Walker's expert directorship the Cytogenetics Unit became an acknowledged centre of excellence for diagnosis and research and was one of the first laboratories in England to introduce a comprehensive antenatal diagnostic service. Later, after supervising the design and relocation of the Unit in the new Royal Liverpool Hospital, he became its Top Grade Clinical Cytogeneticist.

He was a founder member of the Clinical Genetics Society and a member of the Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists.

Dr Walker will be remembered by all his colleagues, not only for his caring and considered advice on all aspects of genetics, but also for his commitment and tireless dedication to his work, his sincerity and humour.

All of us who knew him extend deepest sympathy to his widow, Olive, and to his two daughters by whom he will be sadly missed.

NINA M GREGSON