

## OBITUARIES

## Kenneth Lyndon Montague Mills

John F Mills

Former consultant anaesthetist and director of anaesthesia Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London (1968-92) (b Birstall, Leicestershire, 11 March 1929; q Westminster Hospital, London, 1957; FFA 1968), died from transitional cell carcinoma on 13 November 2010.

Kenneth Lyndon Montague Mills ("Freddie") discovered anaesthesia in the Royal Navy and often spoke of regretting his decision to leave. He was a very traditional anaesthetist; not for him a brief introduction in the anaesthetic room but rather, a proper visit on the ward with a full history and examination, and daily postoperative visits for major cases. He was a stickler for protocol, insisting on silence in the anaesthetic room at the start of induction. Such practices might be considered obsolete and archaic now but were doubtless appreciated by his patients;

perhaps, in today's "customer focused" environment, they might be revisited? He was a superb informal clinical mentor to his son John, a consultant neonatologist in Melbourne, Australia.

Freddie was a skilled musician, playing the piano by ear, and composed the tunes for his medical school Christmas pantomime. He loved trout fishing and spent many happy summers on the banks of the Hampshire chalk streams. Latterly, he built up a superb collection of the stamps of the Falkland Islands and was a devotee of the *Times* crossword, usually completing it before breakfast. He is survived by his wife, Jane; three children; and five grandchildren.

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