

Post-1940 figures in the Medical School

Ronald Illingworth (1909–90)

First Professor of Child Health

Founder of the modern Children's Hospital

Author of many classic paediatric texts

Ronald Illingworth

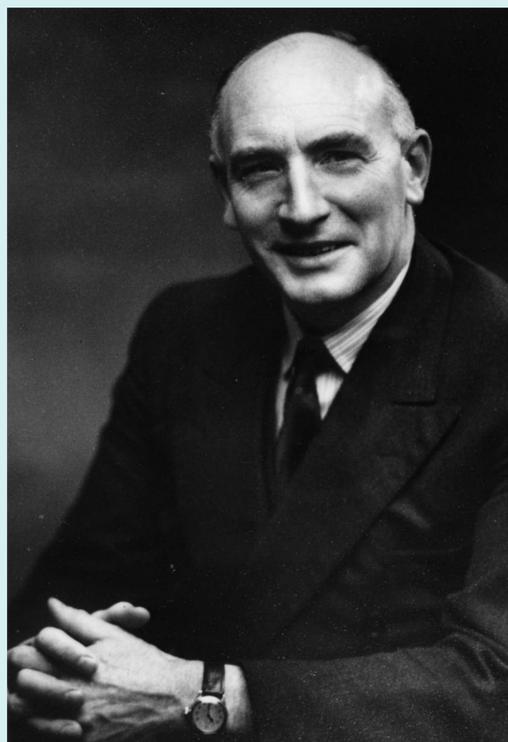


Ronald Illingworth was a Yorkshireman, born in Harrogate, who was awarded a scholarship to study medicine at Leeds. He graduated (MB ChB) in 1934, and had gained his MD, MRCP, DPH and DCH with distinction by 1938. He worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1941. He was appointed to the first Chair of Child Health at Sheffield five years later.

When Ronald Illingworth arrived at the Children's Hospital, it was largely run by visiting GPs; by the time he left, almost 30 years later, it was a centre of excellence with an international reputation. From his department he nurtured a steady stream of promising paediatricians who came from all over the world to work with him. He enlarged and transformed the Children's Hospital and, in an age when a patient was routinely isolated from their family, pioneered a humane visiting regime, allowing parents to stay with their children and creating the facilities to allow them to do so.

He became the foremost exponent of developmental paediatrics, transforming clinical practice through his example and his publications – of which there were more than 650, including the classic texts *The Normal Child* (1953, 10 editions), *The Development of the Infant and Young Child* (1960, nine editions) and *Common Symptoms of Disease in Children* (1967, nine editions). Ronald Illingworth was a clear and accessible writer, and a highly popular lecturer.

Charles Stuart-Harris



Charles Stuart-Harris (1909–96)

The first full-time Professor of Medicine

Leading light of the Medical School from 1946 to 1977

Established a major research and epidemiological unit to investigate respiratory illnesses



Charles Stuart-Harris was a renowned authority on chest diseases, partly because Sheffield was such a 'bronchitis black spot' before the Clean Air Acts. (Photo: www.picturesheffield.com)

Charles Stuart-Harris was a virologist who graduated MB BS from the University of London with two gold medals in 1931, gaining the MD and MRCP within three years. He conducted research into the influenza A and B viruses in London and New York before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps as a pathologist. After World War II, he became the first full-time Professor of Medicine at Sheffield, an unusual appointment for a pathologist but his extensive clinical skills made him ideal for the post.

He was also appointed as Honorary Consultant to the United Sheffield Hospitals and the Northern General Hospital. In addition to his work on the wards he organised his laboratories to continue his research on influenza; his interests included aspects of virus and bacterial infection especially in relation to chest diseases.

Though quietly spoken, his firmness and single-minded precision caused him to be known as the 'Smiling Tiger'. He became a national figure, serving on committees of the Public Health Laboratory, the Medical Research Council (including as chairman of the Committee on Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Vaccines) and the World Health Organization. He was knighted in 1970, and received an honorary degree from the University of Sheffield in 1978, the 150th anniversary of the Medical School. Although he formally retired from his Sheffield chair in 1972, he continued to serve as Postgraduate Dean of Medicine until 1977 and had an office in the Medical School until 1994.

Robert Kilpatrick (1926–)

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (1970–73)

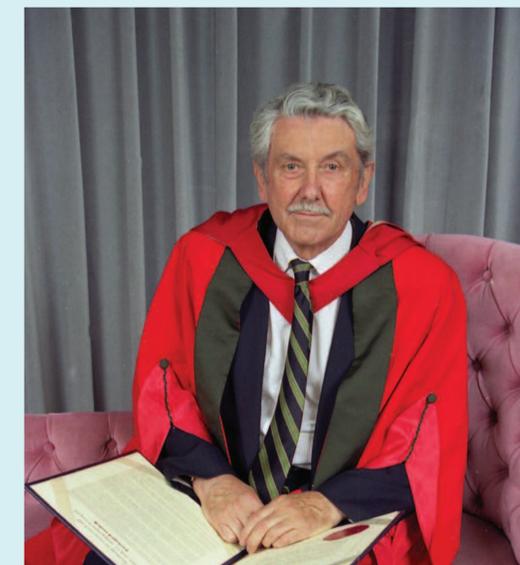
Clinical pharmacology flourished under his leadership

President of the General Medical Council (1989–95)

Robert Kilpatrick joined the Medical School in 1955 as a Lecturer in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and quickly established a reputation for his endocrine research. He became Professor of Experimental Pharmacology (1965–66) and of Clinical Pharmacology (1966–75). Not content with running a highly successful Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics and seeing a stream of patients at his clinic, he took on the added responsibility of being Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (1970–73) and Chairman of the Academic Development Committee. Here he helped to mould the academic shape of the University during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

He moved to Leicester to establish its new Medical School in 1975, and served as President of the General Medical Council (1989–95). During his tenure, the major report, *Tomorrow's Doctors* (1993), encouraged medical schools to reduce the burden of didactic teaching in favour of self-motivated learning and the critical evaluation of evidence. Several important government committees also benefited from his expertise; for many years he was Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Robert Kilpatrick was knighted in 1986, received an honorary degree from the University of Sheffield in 1995, and made a life peer as Lord Kilpatrick of Kincaig in 1996. Having suffered from tuberculosis when he was younger, and been one of the first patients to be treated with the antibiotic Streptomycin, he is now a patron of the charity TB Alert.

Robert Kilpatrick



The Children's Hospital on Western Bank.



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