REPORT Hunterian Lecture, 1996

24 September 1996, Royal Defence Medical College, Millbank, London SW1P 4RJ

Maj GW Bowyer
MA, FRCS, RAMC

The Hunterian Lecture by Major Bowyer was entitled 'The Management of Small Fragment Wounds in Modern Warfare - a Return to Hunterian Principles?' The lecture addressed the management of modern military fragment wounds to soft tissues, drawing on:

- data concerning modern weaponry,
- ballistic experiments, carried out at Trauma Section, CBD Porton Down
- experience in a war surgery hospital, working as a surgeon for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Small fragment wounds, particularly involving limbs, make up the majority of wounds seen in modern warfare. The premise was that some of these wounds to soft tissue may be adequately treated without operative intervention. This was supported by the experimental and clinical evidence, supporting the notion that selected wounds can be safely managed non-operatively, with antibiotics administered early. An expanded synopsis of the lecture is shortly to be published in 'The Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England'.

Hunterian Professorships

A Hunterian Professorship is the highest accolade awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The award is made in recognition of a significant contribution to surgical, dental or anaesthetic science. The Hunterian Lectures usually combine clinical investigation and laboratory science, in a Hunterian tradition.

The College elects 12 Hunterian Professors each year. Applications are invited from Fellows of the College, and a synopsis of the proposed lecture must be submitted. The lecture must contain a reasonable proportion of previously unpublished work and the applications are considered by an expert committee set up by Council.

The history of the professorships dates back to the very beginning of the 19th century, and the establishment of the (then) Royal College of Surgeons of London (now of England). John Hunter was instrumental in the establishment of the College, and his museum collection was entrusted to the College. The conditions laid down by the Trustees of the Hunterian Collection provided for a series of lectures to be given at the College; those originally appointed to the professorship had to produce a series of lecture over a one year period. The present requirement is to produce just one lecture, with each of the lecturers being given the courtesy title 'Professor' for the duration of the College year in which they give the lecture.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

MRCGP

Maj CE Beardmore, RAMC
Maj JE Spenceley, RAMC
Capt SJ Johnson-Ferguson, RAMC
Capt NDJ Payne, RAMC

DObstRCOG

Capt J Hammond, RAMC

HONORARY SENIOR LECTURESHIP

Lt Col TO Jefferson, RAMC has been made Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology of King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry.