

MRS. O. F. GUTHRIE SMITH, O.B.E., F.C.S.P.

A TRIBUTE.

Members of the South African Society of Physiotherapy will be shocked to learn of the death of Mrs. Guthrie Smith, who died peacefully in her sleep at the end of June 1956.

To those of us who were personally acquainted with her, her passing will deprive us of much she had to offer even after her retirement, as she was always available to give advice or to consider difficulties for which her ever inventive mind could always find a solution or a way of surmounting.

Mrs. Guthrie Smith achieved an international reputation not only for her book which has been translated into many languages, but for the development of the technique of sling suspension, now an integral part of any Physiotherapy syllabus. In fact during her lifetime she added a great deal to the profession which will remain as a monument to her dynamic personality and pioneering spirit.

Physical Rehabilitation as we know it today and only really developed from the second world war, can be attributed to such Physiotherapists as her, who with their positive attitude towards activity and motivation opened the way to the scientific course it has taken and to the development of teamwork previously unrecognised.

Her ideas, not always conventional, or even agreed with, her ideals always of the highest, her energy almost superhuman were an inspiration and the profession is poorer for her passing.

In conclusion we offer our deepest sympathy to Miss Isabelle Smith, Mrs. Guthrie's adviser, companion and friend.

JEAN BLAIR.

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