



Maurice Ellis 1905-1977

Casualty Surgeon

Maurice Ellis was born in Leeds and subsequently attended Leeds Medical School. Following a period in the colonial medical service, he returned to general practice in the UK.

In the past all hospitals had Casualty departments which dealt with patients attending hospital, mainly with injuries. These were staffed by the most junior doctors and a nursing team. Following the establishment of the NHS attendances at Casualty departments began to grow.

Recognising the need for senior medical leadership, LGI was the first hospital in the country - and possibly the world - to appoint a senior doctor to be in charge of their Casualty Department. At the time of his appointment he was a general surgical registrar. He was subsequently appointed to be the first consultant in Casualty in 1952.

Ellis had an immediate impact on the standards of care, bringing organisation to what was previously chaotic and introducing teaching and research into the department.

He was particularly renowned for his ability as a teacher and in 1962 he published the Casualty Officers Handbook which was one of the first textbooks covering the speciality.

In 1967 he helped to found, and became the first President of the Casualty Surgeons Association, the predecessor organisation of the current Royal College of Emergency Medicine.

