

Profession pays tribute

D Noreen Chesney put patients at the heart of practice

We are sad to announce the death of Past President D Noreen Chesney.

Noreen trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham, between 1942 and 1944, qualifying in both diagnostic radiography and radiotherapy. After qualifying, she remained at the hospital as a radiographer. Her identical twin, Muriel worked in the same department, which caused great confusion and amusement in patients and staff alike.

In 1951, she worked as a single-handed radiographer in the Birmingham Maternity Hospital.

Noreen was appointed Superintendent Tutor of the Diagnostic X-ray Department and School of Radiography at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital in 1952.

In 1948 Noreen submitted a thesis to the Archibald Reid Competition and gained the Helen Walker Memorial Award – an achievement she repeated in 1953.

Only five years after qualifying, Noreen gained the Fellowship of the Society by examination (1949) and added a Teacher's Endorsement to the diploma in 1957.

Noreen had several papers published in *Radiography* journal and gave a paper on 'Radiography of the Petrous Temporal Bone' at the Ninth Annual Conference.

An active member of the Midlands Branch, Noreen sat on its committee and served as its assistant Secretary and branch chairman.

She also sat on the Society's

Education Committee and served on the Board of Examiners.

Noreen was elected to the Society's UK Council in 1956 and re-elected in 1959. She was President for the 1960-61 term.

She put patients at heart of her presidential address. She said: "I would ask you to recall from your own experience how touchingly grateful are patients for any kindness and how faithfully they remember even our smallest good deeds. If this is true, how sore must be the hurt when we are careless of our trust."

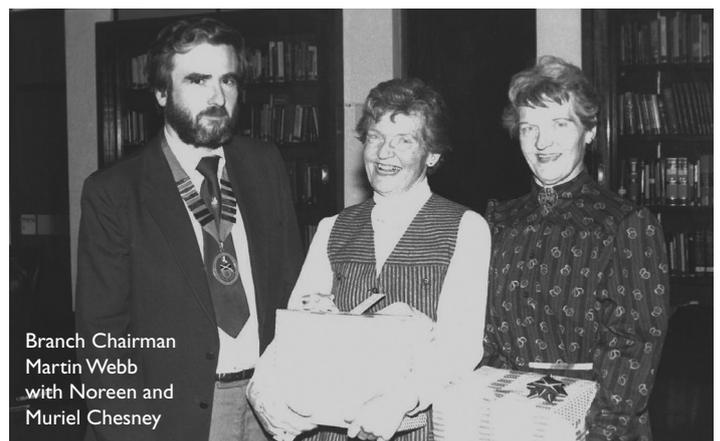
She continued: "We have an obligation to treat our patients with kindness, sympathy, and understanding, and if we do not recognise this, then we are failing in responsibility."

With Muriel, Noreen co-authored several textbooks on aspects of radiography that quickly became regarded as standard works. Generations of radiographers will recall the 'Chesney' books as being influential during their training and early careers. The joint influence of the Chesney twins on the profession has been extraordinary.

In her spare time, Noreen enjoyed the theatre, photography, driving and the outdoors. She was also a keen fencer, and on more than one occasion held the title of Ladies Foil Champion in the West Midlands Section of the Amateur Fencing Association.

Muriel passed away on 19 February 2010. Noreen survived her sister by four years.

Noreen and Muriel Chesney



Branch Chairman
Martin Webb
with Noreen and
Muriel Chesney



Muriel Chesney
with students
who qualified
in 1984