SIR FRANCIS AVERY JONES AT EIGHTY

Sir Francis Avery Jones

Founder member of the Gastroenterological Club and the British Society of Gastroenterology, first physician to be appointed in full time charge of a specialised gastroenterological department, first editorial secretary of Gut, first Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the British Digestive Foundation and now its President, Francis Avery Jones has been the personification of British gastroenterology for over 30 years.

To hundreds of gastroenterologists now holding senior positions he has shown that it is possible to combine the roles of dedicated physician, enquiring scientist, and social reformer, and to be outstandingly effective at all three. As physician, the care of his patients has taken precedence over all other interests and has had first call on his time. As scientist, he has organised the investigation and treatment of every patient, so that he can learn from their experience. As reformer, he has continually sought ways and means by which the facilities of the National Health Service can be improved so that all patients can be equally assured of the opportunity of receiving a high standard of care. But to those who have studied under him, Avery has been more than an exemplar of all these; he has also been a personal friend who has taken a continuing interest in their careers, helped them in times of difficulty, and rejoiced with them in their successes, as they now rejoice with him in his enjoyment of octogenarian life.

This portrait of Sir Francis Avery Jones was commissioned by The British Society of Gastroenterology from Leonard Boden to celebrate his 80th birthday. It is accompanied by an appreciation from Sir Richard Doll FRS, FRCP.