

**Obituary**

**Dr A F S Perera**

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A few months ago, Dr. A F S Perera left our midst. He was a quiet gentleman whose voice was never raised against anyone. Yet, how many colleagues appreciated his silent presence and now his absence?

I was astounded when I spied just myself and another from the medical profession at the memorial service at that beautiful church of St. Theresa which I adore! I thought where have the others gone? Perhaps they had missed the notice and also there is so little communication in this busy self-centred world we live in today and hence their absence. Then what about the morrow?

When I came to the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Drs, Grace Barr, Mirando and A F S took a great interest in my welfare and supported me in the new chair. They were concerned about their minimal involvement in the training of the young students. I took pains to change the clinical appointment in paediatrics with many queries among those who had earlier ignored them. The ophthalmic appointment was excluded from the paediatric appointment and the non-professorial training equally divided among

the four paediatricians. Even my husband recalls Dr A F S Perera bringing up a cardiac murmur for discussion on a 'grand round' when we were both only house officers. He was disappointed that the objective of the discussion was ignored.

At the Clinical Examinations he was completely unbiased, followed our objective procedure and did not gleefully hail the progeny of medical colleagues.

He was never forward in pushing himself to the fore. His wife Rene was highly educated and shone in her own discipline. She predeceased him by several years. Today their children hold responsible positions in the public scientific sector.

Our sympathies go out to the members of his family who rendered yeomen service with tender loving care for the many years when he required special care.

He was in active private practice for some years after his retirement and participated in several activities of the then Paediatric Association.

I write this at the request of the Editors of the Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, who join me in praying for his repose. May he rest in Peace.

**Priyani Soysa**