

man of portly build, always well dressed in the traditional style of the teaching hospital consultant. His appearance, his mannerisms and even his sly sense of humour had their roots in a past age, but he was a shrewd judge of men and affairs, and was always receptive and productive of new ideas, even into old age. His intellect was outstanding, linked to kindness and humility, and a fierce determination to do what he considered was right.”

**ALFRED WHITE FRANKLIN (1905-1984). M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). -  
President of the British Paediatric Association.**

*“His intellect was outstanding, linked to kindness and humility....He was nicknamed ‘The Bishop’ by those who knew him well.”*

*British Medical Journal (1984).*

Alfred White Franklin (1905-1984) [Epsom College 1918-1923] was the son of Philip Franklin F.R.C.S., a distinguished E.N.T. surgeon, of Wimpole Street, London. At Epsom College he was a prefect, and winner of the French, Engledeue Essay and Rosebery English Literature Prizes. He then won an Open scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, before entering St Bartholomew’s Hospital, where he was Lawrence Scholar and gold medallist. He graduated M.B. B.Ch. in 1933. From 1934-1935 he was Temple Cross Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, before returning to St Bartholomew’s Hospital as assistant physician to the children’s department. In 1937 he was appointed assistant to the eminent paediatrician Sir Alan Moncrieff at Queen Charlotte’s Hospital and became one of the first neonatologists working in this country. In a sense he was the progenitor of what has now become a major sub-specialty. During the Second World War Franklin was paediatrician to sector III of the Emergency Medical Service, working at Hill End and St Alban’s Hospitals. In 1942 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and in 1945 was appointed Consultant Paediatrician in charge of the newly formed Department of Child Health at St Bartholomew’s Hospital.

Alfred White Franklin was elected a member of Council at the Royal College of Physicians (1966-1969) and President of the British Paediatric Association (1968-1969). From 1974-1976 he was President of the British Society for Medical History, and from 1981-1982 he was President of the International Society for the prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. When the full extent of child abuse became apparent in the late 1960s, Alfred White Franklin became the acknowledged doyen of those working in that field in this country. He was instrumental in holding together the various professions – doctors, social workers and lawyers, whose collaboration was essential if problems were to be resolved in the best interests of the child, the family and the State. He edited several books on child abuse and was a valued adviser to the *British Medical Journal* on this and many other subjects. “He had an intuitive understanding of the problems and distress, both emotional and practical, suffered by a family of a sick – perhaps mortally – or handicapped child. He felt deeply for mothers who had lost a baby, and for the parents of a newborn child with a congenital defect, and would spend long hours of a busy and tiring day consoling and advising those who needed his help.” He recognised that it was necessary for paediatricians to become knowledgeable and active in their diagnosis of children suffering from abuse and neglect and to seek ways of preventing it. His capacity for organisation, his personal authority and gift for writing, were all widely used to promote meetings for postgraduate education in this field.



During the period 1970-1978, Franklin was Deputy Chairman of the Attendance Allowance Board of the Department of Health and Social Security. He had always been interested in medical history and co-founded the Osler Club of London, following which he was appointed Osler Orator of the Royal College of Physicians in 1971. His writings included *Widening Horizons of Child Health* (1976) and *Pastoral Paediatrics* (1976). In his obituary it was written that: “Alfred White Franklin was a short