
“Early this year (1963) he was elected F.R.C.O.G. (Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists), the only diagnostic radiologist to enjoy this distinction.”


Ernest Rohan Williams (1906-1963) [Epsom College 1921-1924] was the son of E. T. Williams, consulting engineer of Golders Green, North London. At Epsom College he was a prefect, member of the Rugby XV, and winner of the French and Sterry Prizes. He received his medical training at St Mary’s Hospital where he was Cheadle Gold Medallist in clinical medicine in his final year. He was one of a distinguished group of students who later returned as consultants to their own hospital. After taking the M.R.C.P. in 1939 he decided on radiology as a career, obtained the Diploma of Medical Radiology of Cambridge University and, at the early age of 29 was appointed honorary radiologist and assistant director to his revered chief, Courtney Gage (1935). In 1942 he was presented with the Roentgen Award of the British Institute of Radiology, and in 1947 he won the Katherine Bishop Harman Award of the British Medical Association. It was in that year that he was appointed Director of the Radiological Department at St Mary’s Hospital, with consultant appointments at Willesden and Hampstead General Hospitals. After this he was appointed Consultant Radiologist at Queen Charlotte’s Hospital, the hospital that he always claimed to come second in his affections only to St Mary’s. Apart from these appointments Rohan Williams was Lecturer in Radiology, University of London; Examiner for the D. M. R. Diploma of the Royal Colleges, and Examiner in radiodiagnosis for the Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists (F.F.R.); and President of the Faculty of Radiologists.

Rohan Williams is best known for his original work in obstetric radiology in which he was ever at pains to balance a high standard of diagnostic accuracy against the potential but slight hazards of radiation. He wrote the section on radiology in obstetrics for successive editions of A Textbook of X-Ray Diagnosis. In 1960, he travelled to Australia as Baker Travelling Professor of the Australasian College of Radiologists, and received the Honorary Fellowship of the Australasian College.