



## IN MEMORIAM

## Ruth Drubin



Dr Ruth Drubin, who qualified at Wits Medical School in 1942, passed away on 26 May 2003 at the age of 85 years. She spent a lifetime in the service of paediatrics, first in the casualty department, Transvaal Memorial Hospital for Children (TMH) for 21 years, then in an administrative capacity as a superintendent of the Johannesburg Hospital for a further 30 years.

As a clinician she had a particular talent for managing children with lacerations and burns. She was a keen teacher of students, trainee doctors, and nursing staff, and was the originator of postgraduate clinical meetings.

After 1968, with the appointment of a professor of paediatrics and the realisation of a full academic department, she played a vital role as hospital administrator, in negotiations with the province, and in facilitating its expansion and consolidation. Professor Hansen, second incumbent of the Chair of Paediatrics, praised her as a great lady who personified the concept of quiet diplomacy. Together they were responsible for the establishment of the Transvaal Memorial Institute (TMI) for Child Health and Development in the buildings of the TMH that were vacated in 1978.

Ruth had a warm and personal relationship with all members of staff who came in contact with her. She was a humble person who gave wise counsel to new superintendents, based on her many years of experience.

She read extensively, travelled widely, had a particular interest in archeology, and was a keen photographer.

An apt description of Ruth, perhaps, is a quote from *Proverbs*, chapter 31, verse 10: 'An accomplished woman, who can find? Far beyond pearls is her value.'

A large gathering of medical and lay friends were present on 5 December 2003 at the TMI for Child Health, where a memorial garden was dedicated to her as a fitting tribute to all of her achievements.

Solly Levin and Trevor Frankish

## Books Received

*The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.*

**Learning from HIV and AIDS. Biosocial Society Symposium Series.** Edited by George Ellison, Melissa Parker and Catherine Campbell. Pp. xvii + 299. R420. Cambridge University Press. 2003. ISBN 0-521-00470-5. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R130, members R120.)

**Climate Change and Human Health. Risks and Responses.** By DH Campbell-Lendrum, CF Corvalan, KL Ebi, A Githeko, JD Scheraga and A Woodward. Pp. xi + 322. Sw.fr.20./US\$18. WHO. 2003. ISBN 92-4-156248X. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R125, members R105.)

**Celebrity Surgeon. Christiaan Barnard - A Life.** By Chris Logan. Pp. 340. Illustrated. R175. Jonathan Ball Publishers. 2003. ISBN 1-86842-163-5. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R175, members R166.)

**The Moral Economy of AIDS in South Africa.** By Nicoli Nattrass. Pp. 224. R130. Cambridge University Press. 2004. ISBN 0-521-54864-0. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R130, members R 115.)

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