

Terence Edward Thornton Spencer
MB BS DTM&H FACTM



TERRY SPENCER was born in Tenterfield, New South Wales, on 18 April 1917. He was brought up on a grazing property, where, because of isolation, education was difficult, but he was encouraged to read and absorb a wide range of information. He showed particular interest in mechanical matters, excelling in shooting with both rifle and pistol.

After some years at Tenterfield Rural School and at "Shore" school in Sydney, Terry educated himself at home while working on the property, eventually passing his matriculation exams through the International Correspondence School at the age of 23. He enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the then New England University College, where he met his future wife, Margaret Cumpston.

His studies were interrupted by the war. In 1940, he enlisted in the Air Force and trained as a radio and radar mechanic. Active war service contributed to the deafness that handicapped him in later life.

When war ended, Terry was accepted as a medical student at the University of Sydney. After graduating in 1951, his first medical appointment was to Thursday Island, in the Torres Strait, where he took a special interest in diagnosis

and treatment of tuberculosis in Indigenous people. It was there that his enduring interest in tropical medicine and insect-borne diseases began.

In 1953, after gaining the Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the University of Sydney, he joined the Department of Health in Papua New Guinea. During his stay there (1953–1961), he became a specialist in the epidemiology and control of malaria. His expertise was recognised by his election as a Fellow of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine in 1992.

His other medical appointments included Visiting Medical Officer at the Prince Albert Memorial Hospital, in Tenterfield (1962–1974), and sole resident general practitioner in Werris Creek (1979–1987), a small town in northern New South Wales.

Terry was a grazier, a malariologist, a great storyteller and a general practitioner with a wide range of abilities. Capable, conscientious and enthusiastic, with a quiet and friendly manner, whatever he undertook he carried out with integrity and to the best of his ability. He tackled all problems with courage and determination, not least his increasing helplessness in later years. He died on 15 February 2002. A loving and supportive husband and brother, Terry is survived by his wife Margaret and sister Anne.

Margaret Spencer

books received

Australasian contact tracing manual. Canberra: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, 2002 (vi + 115 pp Free) ISBN 0957911459.

The bowek book. A self-help guide for sufferers. Levitt M. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002 (156 pp \$29.95) ISBN 0198508581.

Clinical data interpretation in anaesthesia and intensive care. Bonner S, Dodds C (eds). Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 2002 (278 pp \$88) ISBN 0443064539.

Communication for health care. Berglund C, Saltman D (eds). Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2002 (xiv + 257 pp \$44.95) ISBN 0195512987.

Comprehensive clinical endocrinology. Besser GM, Thorner MO. Edinburgh: Mosby, 2002 (xiv + 742 pp \$451.55) ISBN 072343185X.

Diagnostic pathology of the nervous system tumours. Ironside JW, Moss TH, Louis DN, Lowe JS, Weller RO. London: Churchill Livingstone, 2002 (x + 651 pp \$543.30) ISBN 0443045585.

Eastwest medical makeover. 14 days to feel fabulous. Kiat H. Sydney: Image of Distinction, 2002 (156 pp \$24.95) ISBN 0958033501.

Equity and health. Views from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Washington DC: Pan American Health Organization (WHO), 2001 (xi + 157 pp \$38.80) ISBN 9275122881.

How to survive in anaesthesia. A guide for trainees. Robinson N, Hall G. London: BMJ Books, 2002 (xv + 191 pp \$83.71) ISBN 0727916831.

ICF. International classification of functioning, disability and health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2001 (1 CD-ROM \$249) ISBN 9240560203.

National cancer control programmes. Policies and managerial guidelines. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2002 (xxiii + 180 pp \$69.70) ISBN 9241545577.

Natural medicine instructions for patients. Pizzorno LU, Pizzorno JE, Murray MT. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 2002 (ix + 374 pp \$119.90) ISBN 0443071284.

New rural health. Wilkinson D, Blue I (eds). Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2002 (xxiii + 343 pp \$59.95) ISBN 0195513304.

The principles of palliative care. Pollard B. Sydney: Brian Pollard, 2002 (45 pp \$9) ISBN none.

Rapid reference migraine. Dowson AJ, Cady RK. London: Mosby, 2002 (v + 168 pp \$41.80) ISBN 0723432775.

Rethinking ADHD. Integrating approaches to helping children at home and at school. Neven RS, Anderson V, Godber T. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2002 (vii + 191 pp \$39.95) ISBN 1865088161.

Scientific writing easy when you know how. Peat J, Elliott E, Baur L, Keena V. London: BMJ Books, 2002 (xv + 292 pp \$66.78) ISBN 0727916254.0443061645.

Textbook of facial rejuvenation. The art of minimally invasive combination therapy. Lowe NJ (ed). London: Martin Dunitz, 2002 (ix + 406 pp \$368.20) ISBN 1841840955.

Urological cancer. A practical guide to management. Moffat LEF. London: Martin Dunitz, 2002 (228 pp \$184.20) ISBN 1841841900.

Water and health in Europe. A joint report from the European Environment Agency and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Bartram J, Thyssen N, Gowers A, Pond K, Lack T (eds). Copenhagen: World Health Organization, 2002 (xxiii + 222pp \$82.20) ISBN 9289013605.