

HONORARY GRADUATE

Priscilla Sheath Kincaid-Smith

The medical scientist whom the University honours this evening has had a most distinguished career in medicine and has become one of the world's leading authorities in diseases of the kidney.

Priscilla Sheath Kincaid-Smith was born in Johannesburg in 1926. She matriculated at the Parktown Girls' High School. Then she entered this university, where she took a BSc degree, followed in 1946 by an honours degree in histology and a medical degree in 1950. After graduation she spent some two years in resident positions in medicine and surgery and as Registrar in Medicine at Baragwanath Hospital. Thereafter she left for the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London. At first she studied pathology, taking the Diploma in Clinical Pathology at the University of London in 1954. She then returned to the field of internal medicine and became a Member of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1956. Her main research during these years was in the clinical and pathological aspects of hypertension and in the area of phonocardiography.

In 1958 she married an Australian physician, Dr Kenneth Fairley, and settled in Melbourne, becoming an Australian citizen. Her research, teaching and consulting work continued unabated. She was Honorary Physician at the Royal Melbourne and the Queen Victoria Hospitals, Senior Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council, and part-time instructor and lecturer at Monash University. At this stage she published extensively, mainly in the field of urinary tract infections and hypertension. In Australia she saw for the first time a form of papillary necrosis now widely recognized as the underlying lesion in analgesic nephropathy. She played an important part in the recognition of this as a common disease entity in Australia, and she defined the kidney lesion.

Soon after her return to full-time employment in 1967, Priscilla Kincaid-Smith became Physician-in-charge and later Director of the Department of Nephrology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She was promoted Reader in Medicine in the University of Melbourne, and took her Doctorate of Medicine there in 1968. In 1975 the University created for her a personal Chair of Medicine — an honour offered only to persons who are recognized internationally as eminent scholars. She was the first woman professor in the history of the University of Melbourne. Currently she is also Assistant Dean in the University and Chairman of the Division of Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

She has published well over 200 papers in scientific journals, 43 chapters in books and a 500-page monograph entitled *The Kidney: A Clinico-Pathological Study*. She has edited a book on hypertension and a number of books on kidney diseases.

She has been active on international societies, serving, *inter alia*, as a Council member, and for three years as President, of the International Transplantation Society; an Executive Committee Member of the International Society of Hypertension; a member of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension and Proteinuria in Pregnancy and of the Scientific Council on Hypertension of the International Society of Cardiology. In Australasia too she has served on many committees and advisory bodies. She was President of the Australian Society of Nephrology and its Vice-President of the Australian Kidney Foundation; she is a member of the Council and the Executive Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians; a member of the Executive Committee of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia; and a member of the Victoria Medical Postgraduate Foundation. She has been a member of a committee for long-term planning in the State of Victoria. Professor Kincaid-Smith has served on several World Health Organization advisory committees, and has been called upon to give expert evidence to public health bodies in the United States of America and Canada, and to the Australian Government. She is a member of the editorial boards of some ten major medical journals. Within the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital she serves on numerous committees. She has visited our Medical School on a number of occasions to take part in discussions and seminars, and maintains close contact with colleagues at Wits.

In 1975 she was awarded the CBE for services to medicine in Australia. In 1979 this university, her Alma Mater, awarded her the DSc degree on the basis of her publications on 'the histological and ultrastructural basis of patterns of reactivity shown by the kidney correlated with function and malfunction.'

The University is proud to recognize Professor Kincaid-Smith's standing as a world leader in nephrology. She is one of our most distinguished medical graduates and it is appropriate that, in the year of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations and of the opening of our new Medical School, the University confer on her the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Medicine.