Tribute to the Schers - Dentists supreme

THEY ADORNED SYDNEY PLACE

By ALISON WALSH

THE bright blue door of No. 7 Sydney Place marked the home in the 1930s, 40s and 50s of the Schers, a very remarkable family of Cork dentists. Isaac, the patriarch, always known to my brother and me, then children, as Mr. Scher, was a small, compact man wearing a grey suit and a very stumpy, starched white coat. He wore gold-rimmed half glasses and seemed to move in an aroma of antiseptic.

School holidays were always marked by the obligatory visit to Mr. Scher and we would be shown in by a maid in a black dress and white apron. The large hall had a long, high table on one side, behind which hung a huge overmantle. A surgery faced on to Wellington Road and behind this lay the drawing-room, where we sat appositely amongst a congeries of antiques, chairs, tables, presses, glass cabinets, pictures and overmantles, while a sideboard groaned under silver, porcelain, crystal, copper and bronze. We would have been warded in advance not to touch anything but we never had the courage to try.

A large north-facing window overlooked the end of the garden and the back of the basement. To the right of the window a door opened to the red-carpeted stairs and we met at the glass door of his surgery by Mr. Scher himself. He was always courteous, kind to us, inquiring after my mother and asking about school, sports and music lessons. I was good at the piano and Mr. Scher would be most pleased to hear me play. He was always very fond of me and on occasion took me on hands-down Christmas cards. My brother still has a photo of me with a Christmas card round it.

There was something in my family that we always believed was our secret. The Schers never told us what was going on in their surgery. We knew that there was a doctor in there, but we never knew what he was doing. We would sit in the waiting room and wait for our parents to come out.

Occasionally, one of his other clients would come in too. He would always be very polite and would talk to us about our school and our music lessons. He was always very kind to us and would sometimes give us sweets to keep us quiet.

The Schers were a very interesting family. They were always very well-dressed and always very smart. They always had a lot of friends and a lot of acquaintances. They were always very friendly and always very polite.

Mr. Scher was a very fine dentist, according to many of his clients. He was known to be very kind and very helpful.

Ivor Scher was born in 1925 and died in 1995. He was the son of Mr. Scher and the brother of Alphonse Scher. He was a very good rugby player and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was also a very good golfer and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good tennis player and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good all-rounder and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good cricketer and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good footballer and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good basketball player and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good hockey player and played for both the Cork and the Munster. He was a very good netball player and played for both the Cork and the Munster.

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