

Obituary

This new section, which is edited by Dr Henry Rollin, will be a regular feature in the *Bulletin* and it is hoped that an accurate record can be maintained. We will be pleased to accept information on deaths and short obituaries which will be used at the discretion of the editor.

THEODORE MARTIN CUTHBERT, Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor, formerly Physician Superintendent, St Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough.

Dr T. M. Cuthbert, the last president of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and formerly physician superintendent of St Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough, died on 24 May aged 71.

Theodore Martin Cuthbert was born on 15 July 1909, the only child of a doctor father who bore the same name. Martin Cuthbert (as he was invariably known) was educated at Bradfield College and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He qualified with the conjoint diploma, MRCS, LRCP (London) in 1933, and having decided on a career in psychiatry, proceeded to the DPM (England) in 1936.

His first experience of mental hospital psychiatry was as a locum at Goodmayes Hospital, Essex, where his uncle, Dr Harvey Cuthbert, was medical superintendent. He then joined the staff of Oakwood Hospital, Maidstone, Kent, and at the early age of 29 was appointed deputy medical superintendent at Cherry Knowle Hospital, Co Durham. In 1947, when aged 38, he was appointed medical superintendent at St Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough, a post he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1973. In the same year he was invited to become a Lord Chancellor's Visitor. In July 1981 he underwent major abdominal surgery, and although he recovered sufficiently to return to work, he was ultimately forced to retire in December 1981.

Martin Cuthbert, a handsome man of commanding presence, was a very able clinician and administrator, but what was more important for what he was destined to become, he was a born leader of men. All these attributes he exercised to the full, both in his job as a medical superintendent and as a member of a variety of medical committees outside his hospital. He was, for example, a member of the Central Health Services Council.

For many years he was closely identified with the old Royal Medico-Psychological Association. From 1945 to 1949 he held the post of secretary to the Northern and Midland Division, and from 1958 to 1961 he served as its chairman. In 1969 he was elected president of the RMPA at a time when the delicate negotiations with the Privy Council to translate the Association into a Royal College were in train.

That they were brought to a successful conclusion was due in no small measure to Cuthbert's negotiating skills. He it was, therefore, who served as the final link in a chain, the

first of which was forged in 1841 when the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane was founded. It was a kindly fate that saw to it that, at this critical tide in the affairs of British Psychiatry in general and our College in particular, the right man was in the right place at the right time. His task completed he handed over the keys of office to Sir Martin Roth, who in 1972 became the first president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Cuthbert was elected foundation fellow of the College in 1971, and as a gesture of its appreciation of his services, was among the first to be elected to the Honorary Fellowship in 1972.

Martin Cuthbert gave of his best to the College in terms of unstinting service. But he did even more; he presented to the College its mace, its symbolic staff of office. In this exquisite work of art, specially designed and cast in sterling silver, the memory of Theodore Martin Cuthbert will be enshrined for all time.

SIR (JOHN) DENIS NELSON HILL, formerly Professor of Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, London SE5.

Denis Hill, who died on 5 May, was perhaps the most influential British psychiatrist of his day. His contributions were comparable in range and significance to those of Mapother and Lewis, his predecessors at the Institute of Psychiatry—though in some respects the contrasts could hardly have been greater. After pioneering work in electroencephalography and neuropsychiatry, he played a leading part in extending the affiliations of psychiatry with general medicine, in furthering psychiatric education and the development of academic psychiatry, in advancing the case for dynamic psychiatry and psychotherapy, and in setting the scene for the modern practice of forensic psychiatry.

John Denis Nelson Hill was born in 1913 and was educated at Shrewsbury School and St Thomas' Hospital. While a house physician at Maida Vale he was infected by Grey Walter's enthusiasm for the potential clinical value of the EEG. He later headed a small team which first in the wartime emergency medical service at Belmont Hospital and afterwards at the Maudsley, explored applications of the technique to psychiatry, achieved international repute, and laid the foundations of modern electroencephalography. Hill was for years in charge of the epileptic ward at the Maudsley, and this too was run with something of the pioneering spirit with a multiprofessional team placing emphasis on psychosocial as well as biomedical aspects of the disorder.

During the post-war years, Hill was also on the staff of King's College Hospital, where he became renowned as a superb clinician and inspired teacher, and where he anticipated the modern vogue for 'liaison psychiatry'. His