

Saturday morning clinical teaching sessions at King's became famous and his reputation as a leader of the profession grew during these years, his wider influence also becoming apparent. His appointment to the first of the new chairs, at the Middlesex in 1961, turned out to be immensely important for psychiatry: Hill extended its links with general medicine and became a leading spokesman for his subject, consulted in virtually all matters concerned with medical education. He was knighted in 1966.

Few were surprised when in 1966 Hill was appointed to succeed Sir Aubrey Lewis in the premier chair of psychiatry in the country, at the Institute of Psychiatry. The Institute's new building had been completed, and expansion and diversification were in the offing. The Institute's Department of Psychiatry grew in range and power whilst new departments in the specialties of psychiatry were encouraged to emerge. When Hill retired in 1979, a large and distinguished senior staff headed a series of units which represented virtually all the growing points of postgraduate psychiatric studies.

As Chairman of the Royal College of Physicians' committee on psychological medicine, Hill was one of the small group of people who laboured to ensure the smooth passage of the negotiations which eventually led to the transformation of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association into the new College. In recognition of this and of his continuing wise counsels on the College's behalf, he was elected to the Honorary Fellowship in 1979. Among his numerous advisory roles, special mention should be made of his membership of the Butler Committee on mentally abnormal offenders, which reported in 1975, and of the part he played on the General Medical Council from 1960 until the day he died.

A man with a powerful and independent cast of mind, Denis Hill relished hard work, high responsibility and tough assignments. Friendly, kind, humorous and entertaining, he was a much loved man whose presence, in the normal and humdrum events no less than the splendid ones, conferred a sense of occasion. He had two children by his first marriage. In 1962 he married Lorna Wheelan, consultant in child psychiatry at King's College Hospital, who survives him with a son and daughter.

RHC

FRANK LAKE, Director, Clinical Theology Centre, Nottingham.

Frank Lake, who died in June at the age of 67, made a unique contribution to pastoral care by using a blend of psychiatry and Christian understanding in the treatment of those psychiatrically and emotionally disturbed. He founded the Clinical Theology Association in 1962.

His major work, *Clinical Theology*, published in 1966, is considered a classic of its genre.

ALEXANDER WALK, formerly Physician Superintendent, Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Alexander Walk, psychiatrist and scholar, historian, man of letters and linguist, died on 22 July at the age of 81. His contribution to British psychiatry in general and to this College in particular can never be surpassed if, indeed, it can ever be equalled. Having said this, it would be fair to add that in spite of all his attributes, he was a rather asocial but kindly man who hid his light under a bushel.

Walk was born in London in 1901, but received a good deal of his early education in Antwerp. He was awarded a scholarship to St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he had a distinguished undergraduate career and graduated MB, BS (London) in 1923. As a student he was attracted to psychiatry and at the earliest opportunity he joined what was then the London County Council mental health service, first as a locum and then as a permanent member of the medical staff. He rose rapidly in the medical hierarchy, and in so doing served in several of the mental hospitals that comprised that prestigious service. In 1949 he succeeded the late Dr George Lilly as medical superintendent of Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon, Surrey, a post he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1962. He had proceeded MD (London) in 1926, was the Gaskell medallist in 1929 and was elected to the honorary fellowship of the College in 1964.

His intimate association with the RMPA began when, as a young medical officer at Horton Hospital, Epsom, he attracted the attention of Dr J. R. Lord who was then medical superintendent and editor of the *Journal of Mental Science*. At the tender age of 27, in May 1928, Walk was appointed assistant editor. He was co-editor from 1930 to 1973 and thereafter served as associate editor until Easter 1982.

But his devotion to the RMPA, and later the Royal College, did not begin and end with the *Journal*. In his time he filled many an important office, including that of president from 1960–61. He was *inter alia* secretary and later chairman of the Parliamentary Committee which advised on the Mental Health Act, 1959 and was parliamentary reporter until 1982. He was also our representative on the GMC. From 1953 to 1968 he was a member of the General Nursing Council and the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers of which he was president from 1959 to 1961.

There can be no doubt, however, that in the scale of his affections the College Library ranked high. He was appointed librarian in 1945 and continued in that office for no less than 27 years. It was Walk who built up our stock of antiquarian and historical books, particularly those appertaining to the 19th century, a period in the history of psychiatry of which he was, in all probability, the world's leading authority.

On 12 May 1978, Walk's fifty years of service to the RMPA and the College were marked by a dinner at the Royal Society of Medicine. It was a grand occasion and