

regular two evenings of summer wine-and-cheese entertainment—and what wine and what cheese! To his friends he was the soul of sagacity and generosity, neither of which, nor indeed all his other faculties, had begun to dwindle when a severe cardiac operation led to his premature death at the age of 69.

SJGS

WILLIAM JOHN GRAY, Principal Medical Officer and Assistant Under Secretary of State, 88 Crosshill Terrace, Wormit, Fife.

Dr Gray will go down in the history of forensic psychiatry and penology in this country for his outstanding work at Grendon Psychiatric Prison.

His career had been a long preparation for this pioneering job. He grew up in Wishaw, in Lanarkshire, and went on to Glasgow University, at a time when the Great Depression had turned Clydeside into a huge colony of the underprivileged, undernourished, and unemployed. It may be that this ambience of deprivation, and not a little violence, turned Bill's mind to psychiatry. In any event, in 1939, he went to Glengall (now Ailsa) Mental Hospital in Ayr, as Deputy Medical Superintendent until he joined the RAMC in 1942. In the Army, he carried on his work as a specialist in psychiatry in the UK and in Italy. When he returned to civilian life in 1947, he met with bureaucratic insensitivity of an intolerable degree, and left Ayrshire to join the Prison Medical Service, to the detriment, for many years, of psychiatric services in Ayrshire, but to the benefit of the prison service. That service obviously thought very highly of him, as he was given senior medical appointments at the very important prisons at Wakefield, Maidstone, and Liverpool, all of them establishments dealing constantly with the most acute problems, and controversial issues, of custody and release of offenders; and they were seldom out of the public eye. The Home Office further recognised Bill's abilities by supporting his Nuffield Fellowship in 1967, in order for him to visit penal establishments in Europe, in particular the Herstedvester Psychiatric Institute in Denmark, under the medical directorship of Dr Stürup, then the high priest of prison psychiatry, and his institute the mecca of the cult.

When the over-long gestation of the pre-war East-Hubert report on mentally abnormal prisoners bore fruit in the shape of Grendon Psychiatric Prison, Bill's long grooming in the art made him a natural for the first ever Medical Superintendent/Governor of a psychiatric prison in the UK. The gentleness that went with his strength, his careful, studied, choice of words and phrases, were ideal attributes for the free communication so essential in a community of highly volatile prisoners, many of whom had horrendous records of violence. A remembered, and emulated, technique was the deliberate, unhasty, taking of a packet of cigarettes from an inside pocket, the courteous offer of a smoke, and the measured ritual of applying flame to tobacco. His officer door was always open, and no staff member, of no matter what grade or discipline, was ever refused the comfort of an attentive hearing, and a

considered and considerate response.

Bill's eventual departure from Grendon was marked not only by a richly deserved CB, and the usual staff parties, but by an unprecedented dinner and concert given to him by the inmates. He continued to serve on the Parole Board and as Senior Principal Medical Officer, and Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office till his final retirement at Tayside, where his qualities of clear thinking, firm decision-making, and gentle, persistent, patience were put to good use at the bridge-table and with a fishing rod.

The emotionally enormously demanding work at Grendon could not have been done without the support of his wife, Norma, who survives him, and their two daughters.

His almost shy, gentle smile, dry Scottish humour, and warm hospitality will not be forgotten by those who worked with him, in prison or in College matters.

PGMcG

DORIS MAUDE ODLUM, Honorary Consultant; 11 Golden Gates, Ferryway, Sandbanks, Poole, Dorset.

Doris Maude Odum died at the age of 95 on 14 October 1985. She had lived a remarkably active and productive life right up to the time of her death. In the last 30 years of her life she had become heavily involved with the Samaritans' organisation, becoming its Life President in 1974. She was an outstanding speaker, trained in the hard school of the suffragette movement. Her addresses at the Samaritans' Annual Conference at York, were always heart-warming occasions. She had given one, apparently as vigorous as ever, but concealing an unpleasant attack of angina, less than a month before she died. Like most orators, she had a natural acting talent, and this was put to good use in her remarkable role-play training session for the Bournemouth Samaritans. She had an intuitive sympathy with young people, wrote well about them, treated them professionally, and played them most vividly in her training sessions, up to and beyond her 90th year. Physically too she was strong, being the first woman to stroke a London University eight (for the London School of Medicine) against Cambridge, and she was also reserve for the National Fencing Championship team. She remained an enthusiastic swimmer and painter all her life.

Professionally, she began her career with a Classics degree at Oxford, and a Diploma of Education in London, and qualified in Medicine in 1924, at the London School of Medicine for Women (now the Royal Free Hospital) and St Mary's Hospital. She was always intent on a psychiatric career, and in particular on studying the psychiatric disabilities and neuroses seen in the practice of general medicine in both adults and children.

Soon after obtaining her DPM in 1927, she went to work with Dr Helen Boyle at the Lady Chichester Hospital, and then moved to her home town, Bournemouth, where she was the psychiatrist to the General Hospital. She held appointments in London, at the St Marylebone Hospital for Psychiatry and Child Guidance, and at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. She was extremely

active in the BMA in the cause of psychiatry, being not only a founder member and fellow of the Psychological Medicine Group, from 1937, but also its longest serving one 45 years!

Today's doctors will know her by the Doris Odlum Prize which she endowed in 1961, but perhaps an even more important but unseen contribution was the part she played as Chairman of the BMA Psychological Medicine Group in persuading the government that mental health services should be part of the proposed new NHS, and not under the control of local authorities as had been originally proposed.

Doris Odlum had the character, abilities and physique of a pioneer. She had an immense zest for life and sympathy with people, and she helped to create many things that her successors now take for granted.

JLTB

JOHNSON THEODORE ROBINSON, OBE, formerly Medical Director, Roffey Park Hospital, Warminglid, Sussex.

Brigadier Johnson Theodore Robinson was born on 2 March 1908 in Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. He was educated at Wesley College, Dublin, where he was Head Prefect. He entered Trinity College, Dublin in 1925 to read medicine and graduated MB, BCh, BAO in 1930. He proceeded to the MD in 1934 and in subsequent years gained postgraduate diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Psychological Medicine. Throughout his academic career he succeeded in acquiring a fistful of prizes and medals.

He had an eminently successful military career achieving the rank of Brigadier. His major interest was in psychiatry: he served as Director of Army Psychiatry, Consultant Psychiatrist to the Army, as well as Adviser in Psychiatry to Southern Command and Headquarters BAOR. In recognition of his distinguished service he was awarded the OBE and appointed Honorary Physician to HM The Queen.

Robinson's career in 'civvy street' was equally successful. In 1957 he was appointed Medical Director and Consultant Psychiatrist to Roffey Park Rehabilitation Centre and Hospital, twin jobs which he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1973. He was elected a Foundation Fellow of the College in 1971.

Those of us who knew Robinson will remember him as a modest, kindly man who was invariably well groomed and well tailored. He was a good companion.

ELIZABETH ROBERTSON, Formerly Consultant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh.

Dr Elizabeth Robertson had an influence on psychiatric practice and knowledge which spread far beyond her Edinburgh clinical base. She came to psychiatry in 1946 armed with considerable experience in other branches of medicine obtained during pre-war hospital posts and a five year spell of army service. Her basic qualities had already been noted by a consultant who provided a reference for her following an anaesthesia post, 'careful and thorough, concerned herself with aftercare, tactful and kindly disposition'. In the testing and critical environment of

the post-war psychiatry scene in Edinburgh under the stimulating leadership of Sir Daid Henderson she soon demonstrated other qualities which were to ensure her impact on a large number of colleagues who worked with her and were trained by her in the next 25 years. She demonstrated a questioning attitude which encouraged her to pursue an active research programme even at times when she was deluged by the volume of clinical work. She did research, not to enhance her reputation, nor to build a list of publications, but because she wanted to know the answer. The questions she asked herself and others about the presenile dementias, about depression in its many forms, about the thought disorder of schizophrenia, led her to a number of carefully produced clinical papers but above all they led others to continue the search for answers. She was instrumental in bringing about the setting up of the MRC Brain Metabolism Unit in Edinburgh and was delighted with the contributions made to research in affective disorders and Alzheimer's disease. Above all she always emphasised the importance of the clinical base in psychiatric research, her clinical notes were a model for all of us. She was always on the look-out for the unusual features in a clinical presentation and taught that such observations are often the keys which open doors for further research.

Elizabeth Robertson will be remembered by her patients as a skilled and caring doctor, and by her colleagues as an exceptional teacher, and research worker. She remained a close friend to all those who had worked with her and as time went on her 'family' grew and grew with representatives in all parts of the world.

GWA

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

NELLIE CRASKE, Retired, 106 Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London SW20.

KEITH DAWSON-BUTTERWORTH, Consultant Psychiatrist, North General Hospital, Sheffield.

MARGARET BERNADETTE GUCKIAN, Consultant Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Service, Dudley House, Albion Street, Leeds.

SYDNEY THOMAS HAYWARD, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Shenley Hospital, Radlett, Herts.

GAYNOR LACEY, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Child and Family Centre, Cardiff, Wales.

GEORGE MCCOULL, formerly Medical Superintendent, Prudhoe Hospital, Northumberland.

ALASTAIR KENNETH MACAULAY MACRAE, Emeritus Professor, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

ARTHUR POOL, formerly Medical Superintendent, The Retreat, York.

ROSEMARY PRITCHARD, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist; 8 Angel Lane, Blythburgh, Halesworth, Suffolk.

JOSEPH NICHOLAS RUNES, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Basildon Child Guidance Clinic, Essex.

WALTER SCHINDLER, retired, 56 Portman Mansions, Chiltern Street, London W1.