

For me, next came his masterly review of multifactorial inheritance and human disease,¹ in which FR pointed out that in Man information on the topic is restricted to a few aspects such as the forms of frequency distributions and measures of the resemblances between relatives of different degrees, and these for obvious practical reasons must usually be close relatives only. As regards IQ, he pointed out the difficulties raised because of assortative matings and the background of culture in the home. Nevertheless, he thought that data on sibs, on twins, with studies on twins reared apart and on foster children permitted the drawing of some conclusions, and that it was likely that something between half and three-quarters of the variation in intelligence is to be ascribed to heredity—out of fashion at the moment and therefore probably soon due for a come-back.

More interesting was that FR was of the opinion that the curve in multifactorial inheritance operated in mental deficiency—i.e. idiots were simply at the lower end of the distribution. He pointed out however, very fairly, that others held the opinion that there is “an innate something about a high grade mental defective which differentiates him from others of equal IQ who are not defective”¹. As can be seen FR’s research interests lay in that difficult area of the genetic contribution to traits of socio-medical importance.

FR quite rightly took his place amongst a formidable cohort of geneticists, including Fisher, Haldane and Penrose. Between them they enlivened genetics meetings and were a source of delight to up and coming geneticists because of their outspoken arguments. John was accompanied on these occasions by his first wife, the actress Doris Hare, whom he married in 1941 and by whom he had two daughters. Unfortunately this marriage was dissolved and FR married as his second wife Margaret Relph, in 1975. She had helped him in his work for nearly 40 years and continued to do so until his death.

John was a most charming man and an excellent host, above all in his much loved Denbighshire family home, where he greatly enjoyed walking among the hills.

CAC

REFERENCE

- ¹ROBERTS J. A. FRASER (1964) Multifactorial inheritance and human disease. In *Progress in Medical Genetics*, (eds. A. G. Steinberg and A. G. Bearn) Vol. III, New York: Grune and Stratton. pp 178–216.

JOHN TODD, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, High Royds Hospital, Menston.

John Todd died after a short illness on 13 March, 1987 three days before his 73rd birthday. He was born in London into a medical family and was educated at the City of London School and King’s College Hospital, where he won the Tanner Prize for obstetrics and London University colours

for boxing. He also played chess for the University. Having qualified in 1938, he served in the RAMC between 1940 and 1945 and took part in the Normandy landings. He started his psychiatric career at Park Prewett Hospital in 1946, and later served at Littlemore for four years.

Then, between 1955 and 1979, he was consultant psychiatrist at High Royds Hospital. There he worked so unsparingly for his patients that he built up a reputation for giving them a personal service, although he was conservative and cautious in their management. His medical students saw him as young and progressive and were by no means put off psychiatry when he took them to watch Wimbledon tennis on the television instead of giving them a tutorial.

He was fascinated by patients with multiple ramifications and psychopathological connections in their histories and when we, his colleagues, encountered such a patient we called him or her “a Todd”. He was drawn more towards the complexities than to diagnostic category, and he would formulate “A little schizophrenia, a little depression, a little hysteria, a little subnormality, a little psychopathy”.

He had arresting, interesting and at times legalistic verbal and written styles. His numerous papers were all the more scholarly and authentic for his familiarity with French and German. He often wrote with the late Professor Kenneth Dewhurst, most notably on the Doppelgänger and psychiatric syndromes, particularly that of Capgras. They appear to have coined the term “Othello syndrome”. Other subjects on which he wrote included Chekhov, the Brontës, medicolegal subjects and psychiatric nursing. A letter to the *British Medical Journal* on the influence of what he called “calmative” drugs on shoplifting attracted wide attention. At the time of his death he was collaborating in the compilation of a history of the Medical Superintendents of Stanley Royd Hospital, the erstwhile “Maudsley of the North”, and one greatly hopes that this project will be completed.

In 1949 he obtained the University of London DPM and in 1984 was elected FRCPsych. After retiring from High Royds, although handicapped by asthma, he worked with his customary tirelessness as a locum tenens at St James’s Hospital in Leeds and other hospitals. He grew to love Yorkshire and walking over the moors.

He was a devoted family man and to his wife, Carol, son and two daughters we extend our sincerest sympathies.

GW

The death of DAVID SIMON STAINER, Registrar, Charing Cross Hospital, London W6, has also been announced.