

concede that he has put the movement to help people with alcohol or drug problems on the winning side. We honour ourselves by claiming him as a British psychiatrist.

*Dr (Archibald) Denis Leigh (introduced by Dr H. R. Rollin)*

Some talk of Aubrey Lewis; of Mayer-Gross, Slater and Roth; of Denis Hill, Curran and Guttman; Mapother, Meyer and Mott. These are names writ large in the Pantheon of British psychiatry, names beyond compare. And yet, I venture to suggest, there is one other name that does compare, that of Denis Leigh.

Denis hails from Lancashire, and in spite of decades of exposure to the gentrification of the south, he retains more than a vestigial remnant of a northern accent, as well as a forthrightness which, for those unaccustomed to the manners of the north, can be mistaken for brusqueness. He has had a brilliant career, both as an undergraduate and graduate. The honours that have been showered on him read like the credits that roll endlessly off the screen before or after, or before and after, a Hollywood movie spectacular. To catch just a glimpse of some of them . . .

In 1932 he went up on a scholarship to Manchester University where he graduated MB, ChB with first class honours having, *en passant*, swept the board of prizes in subjects as disparate as anatomy, physiology, medicine, and midwifery. Since graduation he has collected a fistful of academic honours including the MD, MRCP and FRCP, and he was, of course, elected a Foundation Fellow of this College in 1971.

Denis served with distinction in the RAMC during the Second World War achieving the rank of Lt Colonel and was, *inter alia*, Adviser in Neurology to the Eastern Army, India. After demobilization he continued his association with the Army and was appointed Honorary Consultant, this time in psychiatry, to the British Army, a post he held from 1969 to 1980.

Denis' training and expertise in both neurology and psychiatry would have fitted him to specialize in either. He chose psychiatry; and, as we all know, became Consultant Physician

to the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals in 1949, a position he filled with great distinction until that bald sexton, Time, decreed that he should retire in 1980. His services to these great hospitals have been duly acknowledged by his appointment as Emeritus Consultant.

The recognition he has achieved in his own country has been more than matched by the honours which have been hung round his neck like garlands by academic institutions in countries as numerous and far flung as Germany, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, Poland, America, Sweden, Colombia, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Hong Kong. He is, in effect, a one-man academic League of Nations. And it is in the context of internationalism that mention must be made of perhaps the most important, and yet, the most difficult and onerous job he has ever undertaken, that as Secretary-General of the World Psychiatric Association from 1966 to 1978. There were times during his tenure of office when political turbulence troubled the waters and Denis himself became the target of criticism, if not abuse. In characteristic fashion, however, he held firm and succeeded admirably in weathering the storm.

Denis Leigh's contribution to the literature has been considerable. In addition to a host of books, chapters in books, and papers, he was in his time the Editor-in-Chief and founder of the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* as well as serving on the editorial board of other learned journals. He is a medical historian of distinction as witness his intriguing book, *The Historical Development of British Psychiatry*. His love of scholarship is manifest in his bibliolatory: his personal collection of antiquarian books on psychiatry is the envy of all private collectors. We too benefited from his expertise in this field when he served for a time as Honorary Librarian to the College.

Denis Leigh has deserved and has been accorded more glittering prizes than almost anyone I can think of, but to all who know him, as I have been honoured to know him for many years, he remains a plain, blunt man. Mr President, it is my privilege and pleasure to present him to you as a most worthy recipient of the Honorary Fellowship of this College.

## *Election of President*

### *Notice to Fellows and Members*

Fellows and Members are reminded of their rights under the Bye-laws and Regulations, as follows:

#### **Bye-law XI**

The President shall be elected annually from amongst the Fellows in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Regulations.

#### **Regulation XI**

- (1) As soon as may be practicable after the first day of January in any year the Council shall hold a nomination meeting and shall . . . nominate not less than one candidate and not more than three candidates . . .

- (2) Between the first day of January in any year and the date which is four clear weeks after the nomination meeting of the Council, written nominations, accompanied in each case by the nominees' written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council.
- (3) An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The nominating meeting of the Council will be held on 14 January 1986 and the last date for receiving nominations under (2) above will therefore be 11 February 1986.