

Obituary

TREVOR CHARLES NOEL GIBBENS, CBE, retired, Emeritus Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5.

Trevor Charles Noel Gibbens, CBE, Emeritus Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, London University, and a Foundation Fellow and later Honorary Fellow (1978) of the College, died on 27 October 1983, at the age of 70.

Trevor Gibbens was born on 28 December 1912. He was educated at Westminster School and studied medicine at Cambridge and St Thomas', graduating MB, BChir in 1939. He was commissioned in the RAMC at the outbreak of war and was posted abroad. As a consequence of the military débacle on the Continent of Europe, he was taken prisoner. He decided to escape and accompanied by a friend he made a gallant attempt to do so, but was recaptured and severely punished. There can be no doubt that his experiences as a prisoner of war and as an escapee had a profound influence on him. They were in no small measure responsible not only for the way his subsequent career came to be shaped, but also for the deep sympathy he invariably felt for the underdog. It was in fact in a British POW hospital after his recapture that he came face to face with prison psychoses and it was from the notebooks he kept so meticulously at that time that he was later able to write his MD thesis. In recognition of his services to the troops in Germany, he was appointed MBE.

After demobilization he began his formal career in psychiatry. He served at the Maudsley Hospital from 1946 and took the DPM in 1948. That same year he was awarded a Nuffield Travelling Fellowship during the tenure of which he visited forensic institutions and prisons in the USA. On his return he was appointed senior lecturer in forensic psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, and was, in the goodness of time, the obvious choice for the professorship of forensic psychiatry, an appointment he held with distinction from 1967 until his retirement in 1978.

Gibbens, in the course of his long career, was actively engaged in a host of research projects, all of which bore the hallmarks of complete integrity and thoroughness, and which in turn earned him the reputation as the outstanding academic forensic psychiatrist of his day.

But his interests and work spread far outside the purely academic field. He acted as adviser to a number of national and international bodies, including the World Health Organization and the Probation and After-Care Advisory Board. He served, too, on a number of equally important committees: for three years, from 1972 to 1975, he was a medical member of the Parole Board. In addition he was Vice-Chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform and research director of the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency. He served the College well and was on the executive committee to the Forensic Section from

1972–75 and 1976–80. He was promoted CBE in 1977.

Trevor Gibbens has left his mark on British forensic psychiatry, a mark as indelible, indeed, as the mark he made on the minds and hearts of those of us who were privileged to know him and to learn from him.

JAMES LORIMER HALLIDAY, retired, formerly Psychiatrist, Lansdown Clinic, Glasgow, Scotland.

James Lorimer Halliday, a Foundation Fellow of the College, and one of the pioneers in psychosomatic medicine in the UK, died on 6 August 1983 at the age of 85.

Dr Halliday graduated MB, ChB with honours from Glasgow University in 1920. He proceeded to the MD with high commendation in 1925, the first of many postgraduate qualifications.

What is now termed 'psychosomatic medicine' became his major preoccupation, an interest which stemmed from his concern with the question of why patients became ill when they did. From 1937 onwards he published a series of papers based on his studies, as for example, on asthma and rheumatoid arthritis. These culminated in what must be considered his magnum opus, his book *Psycho-Social Medicine*, published in 1948, which soon became an established classic and was translated into many languages.

In pursuance of his major interest in the mind–body relationship, Dr Halliday underwent analytic training in both the Freudian and Jungian schools, and yet succeeded in maintaining an essential eclecticism. He held a part-time appointment at the Lansdown Clinic, Glasgow, and was a founder member of the Glasgow Psychosomatic Society, of which he was honorary president for many years.

As witness of Halliday's breadth of scholarship, mention should be made of his biography, *Mr Carlyle, My Patient*, published in 1949, in which he illustrates the psychosomatic aetiology of the ailments of that great, but dyspeptic, Victorian.

WILLIAM VICTOR WADSWORTH, Medical Director, SIHV 'Franklyn', Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

Bill Wadsworth died on 4 September 1983 at the age of 63. He was well known and liked in Manchester medical circles and was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He qualified in 1944 and worked in neurology with Fergus Ferguson, who introduced him to Cheadle Royal Hospital in 1952 after he had trained in psychiatry at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. He is best known for his period as Medical Superintendent at Cheadle Royal from 1953 to 1971. His particular interest lay in rehabilitation and he developed a large hospital industrial unit with generous help from the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. He welcomed the forging of links between the NHS and the private sector and hence this unit became a centre for the rehabilitation of chronic psychotic

patients from nearby mental hospitals.

He showed in abundance the capacities both of psychiatric team leader and of managerial administrator so necessary to running a private hospital. After leaving Cheadle Royal he continued private psychiatric practice in Cheshire, first at Toft Hall and then at Alderley Edge.

A former lecturer at Manchester University on its old DPM course, he developed, in later years, adventurous

unorthodox ideas on the causes of psychiatric illness from which stemmed highly individual methods of psychotherapy.

Latterly he had survived a number of heart attacks which diminished his traditional vigour. Our condolences go to his four children.

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Appeal to Preserve Psychiatric Memorabilia

For better or for worse, mental hospitals throughout the country are being closed, and seemingly will continue to be closed. There is a grave danger that important and irreplaceable documents and memorabilia of paramount historical importance may be destroyed in the process of these closures. I refer primarily to clinical records, administrative records, photographs as well as old ECT machines and the apparatus associated with deep insulin therapy clinics and

the like.

May I therefore appeal to members to do their utmost to prevent this vandalism which is known to be going on. It may be that the College can accommodate some of this material, but, if not, the County Records Office is invariably glad to have them.

HENRY R. ROLLIN
Honorary Librarian

News Items

New Journals and Special Issues

Psychiatric Developments

A new quarterly journal was launched last year called *Psychiatric Developments*, edited by Samuel B. Guze and Sir Martin Roth.

The rapid development of scientific inquiry in epidemiological, clinical and neurobiological aspects of psychiatry has created a need for authoritative, critical reviews to help those engaged in both research and practice to achieve an informed view of progress germane to their work. This journal aims to foster communication internationally and between disciplines so that those who have difficulty in keeping abreast of all the research into mental disorders may gain fresh perspectives and new insights. Further information is available from Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX3 6DP.

Nordisk Psykiatrisk Tidsskrift

A recent issue of *Nordisk Psykiatrisk Tidsskrift (Nordic Psychiatric Review)* (1983, Vol. 37, No. 3) presented a systematic survey of over 40 research projects completed in Norway in 1981 and 1982. Although descriptive text is in Norwegian, titles, subject and author indexes and main authors' addresses are given in English for each project. Copies of this special issue may be ordered from the publishers: Universitetsforlaget, PO Box 2977, Tøyen, Oslo 6, Norway, at US\$11 per copy.

British Journal of Addiction

In March 1984 the *British Journal of Addiction* publishes its centenary issue. This issue presents an historical perspective of the whole subject of addiction, including social, economic, political and medical effects. Topics covered include an examination of past alcohol and drug control policies in the UK and elsewhere, British smoking policies in the 1950s and 1960s and a study of the role of the WHO. The issue also features a special book review section. Information is available from Churchill Livingstone, Robert Stevenson House, 1-3 Baxter's Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH1 3AF. (Individual issue: £11.)

Helping the Overseas Trainee

In recent years the College has become aware of the potential difficulties of overseas graduates and has established the Overseas Trainees' Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee of the Education Committee) to identify and advise the College about various issues. This committee has now produced a booklet which aims to alert all psychiatrists to these difficulties and to outline practical ways of assistance so that overseas trainees who experience difficulties can receive appropriate assistance. Copies of the booklet are available (free of charge) on request from Miss Jane Boyce at the College address.