

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

JOHN DUNNE, formerly Professor of Psychiatry, University College, Dublin

News of the death of Professor John Dunne at the age of 92 will come as a shock to his many friends and colleagues and indeed to the people of Ireland generally. All the more so because his tall, erect, youthful looking figure, his wide range of interests – social and sporting as well as professional – had for so long belied his advancing years. His genial gracious manner made him the focus of attention on social occasions and his intervention at professional meetings, whether critical or complimentary, invariably enhanced and enlivened the proceedings.

To the wider community in Ireland, he had reigned so long and so successfully as the outstanding figure in Irish psychiatry that his name had become synonymous with the specialty in its various aspects. For many years he was Medical Superintendent of the largest psychiatric hospital in the country, Professor of Psychiatry at University College Dublin's Medical School and indeed was the first occupant of a Chair of Psychiatry in the Republic of Ireland. He was a much sought after consultant and an outstanding expert witness in the many knotty medico-legal problems posed by our specialty. He was elected President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association for the session 1955/56 and the annual meeting of the Association in Dublin in the year of his presidency was a hugely attended and memorable occasion. He was elected a Foundation Fellow of the College in 1971.

As a doctor, John was kind, understanding and persuasive and enjoyed the challenge of the perplexing problems which so often arise in the practice of psychiatry. Despite his vivacity and obvious enjoyment on social occasions, close observers were aware of a well disguised reserve and he had in a large measure the gift of shrewd appraisal of human nature in health and sickness. Although he retired from his public appointments at the usual age, he continued to work in his consulting rooms and remained attached to a general hospital where he held a weekly out-patient clinic almost to the end of his life.

John Dunne's passing represents the end of an era in Irish psychiatry when one man could undertake so much responsibility for so many facets of a rapidly developing specialty. Ireland was fortunate indeed to have a man of his spirit and critical enthusiasm to meet the challenge of a time of so much change in psychiatry, particularly the advent of the revolution-

ary physical methods from the malarial treatment of general paresis to modern chemotherapy. Although he made skilful use of these new and exciting methods of altering and controlling mood change and behaviour patterns, his more abiding interest was in the power of psychotherapy to influence his patients' lives. In this area of psychiatry, he may not have fully realised the effects of his own confident beliefs and the persuasive power of his own natural gifts. It is safe to say that he had become a legend in his life-time and he will be remembered with gratitude and respect for his contribution to our specialty. Legends beget anecdotes, and his memory too will provoke reminiscent smiles and tales of his larger-than-life personality for many a day to come. Our sympathy goes in particular to his son, David, who is Clinical Director of Psychiatry in St Stephen's Hospital, Cork, and to the other members of his successful family.

JNPM

ARTHUR NICHOLSON MUNRO, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sunnyside Royal Hospital, Montrose, Angus, Scotland

Dr Arthur Munro, a founder member of the College (he was elected to the Fellowship in 1984) died on 2 April 1990 at his home in Montrose at the age of 53.

Arthur was born in Sumatra on 18 June 1936, the only son of Captain Arthur Munro, MC and Mrs Lilia Munro. In March 1942 Arthur and his mother were compelled to leave Sumatra because of the Japanese invasion, taking the last plane out of the island. Arthur's father, a rubber planter responsible for a large number of plantations in the Dutch East Indies, was compelled to remain behind and was a prisoner of war until June 1945. In 1947 the Munro family returned to the United Kingdom, where his education was completed at the Arbroath High School.

He graduated from St Andrew's University in 1959, having earned in his student days a reputation for whimsical humour. Shortly afterwards he decided to pursue a career in psychiatry and he obtained posts at the Royal Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow, and the Royal Dundee Liff Hospital. At the age of 30 he became a consultant at Sunnyside Royal Hospital, Montrose. Initially he worked as a general psychiatrist, but from 1975 onwards he ran the Psychogeriatric Unit of the Angus Psychiatric Service. He became an outstanding champion of elderly people with mental illness and helped to mould positive

hospital and community attitudes to their care by his strong leadership and by his advocacy of the multidisciplinary approach. As Chairman of the Angus Division of Psychiatry for ten years he helped to liberalise the hospital regime. He was an active member of the Section for the Psychiatry of Old Age of the College and he enhanced his reputation as an administrator by his Chairmanship of the Tayside Health Board Specialist Sub-Committee in Psychiatry from 1984 to 1989.

In 1988 his special qualities were recognised by his being appointed as a Commissioner for the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland. The Commission greatly valued his sound clinical judgement, knowledge and expertise.

Arthur was a delightful, life-loving, person with deep commitment to his wife, Dorothy, and their three sons Euan, Graeme and Andrew.

KMGK

RICHARD ALBERT PARRY, Consultant Psychiatrist, Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, Edinburgh University

Dick Parry, who died on 9 November 1990 at the age of 65, studied medicine in Edinburgh, graduating MB ChB in 1952. He took the DPM in 1961 and MRCP(Ed) in 1965. He was awarded the MRCPSych in 1971 and was elected FRCP(Ed) in 1977 and FRCPSych in 1978.

An early intention to train in psychiatry was abandoned after he witnessed a violent incident during his medical student attachment. Entering general practice instead, Dick joined a Balint group at the Tavistock Clinic. However, after six years as a general practitioner he transferred to psychiatry, training in Essex before moving to the London Hospital. In 1963 he moved into academic psychiatry becoming lecturer, then senior lecturer, in Edinburgh. In 1970 he became an NHS consultant and, at the same time, entered private practice.

Dick made full use of his experience in general practice and at the Tavistock Clinic. Soon after arriving in Edinburgh he set up a Balint group. In 1965 he took responsibility for the annual post-graduate psychiatry course for general practitioners which he continued to organise for 25 years. The hallmark of this five day course was the daily small group discussion of cases brought by the participants. He favoured a psychotherapeutic approach to patients' problems, teaching a Rogerian style of counselling. He gave a high priority to supporting members of the clinical team, recognising when a quiet word or an opportunity to 'sound off' after work was required.

His lectures on interview skills and counselling were lively and entertaining. His long-running extra-

mural course on counselling formed the basis of his book *A Guide to Counselling and Basic Psychotherapy* (1975) which was renamed *Basic Psychotherapy* for the second edition (1983). He was a painstaking author who would rewrite many times. Nevertheless this technique did not remove the humour from his book. The tragic death of his brother led to a moving article published anonymously in the *British Medical Journal* (December 1984) under the simple title 'Death of a brother'.

He was very proud of the private practice that he built up, first in Charlotte Square and then in Moray Place, particularly enjoying medico-legal work. He liked to shock, surprise and amuse others. At the age of 50 he secretly took up flying, only telling his family when he had obtained his pilot's licence. In an article on owning a Rolls Royce he wrote that it gave him great pleasure to see the envy written on his colleagues' faces. Above all he enjoyed practical jokes which led some junior doctors to retaliate in kind, which he took in good part.

He is survived by his wife, Doreen, daughters Elizabeth and Christine who are general practitioners, and son Michael who is a consultant psychiatrist in Hexham.

IP

GEORG K. STÜRUP, formerly Director, Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Herstedvester, Denmark

Georg Stürup, who died in September 1988, was born in Odense, Denmark, in March 1905. He studied medicine at the University of Copenhagen and graduated MD in 1929, subsequently specialising in neurology and psychiatry in that order.

From 1942–72 he served as superintendent of Herstedvester, an institution for the treatment of criminal psychopaths, and his work there gained for him and the institution a world-wide reputation.

Stürup's philosophy lay in his confidence that it was possible to change a person's life-style by means of medical, psychological and pedagogical influences, particularly directed towards the prevention of recidivism. To this end Stürup involved all categories of staff in the therapeutic effort. Originally, his methods were used in the treatment of highly dangerous psychopathic criminals as, for example, those convicted of physical assault, arson, and sexual offences. Later, however these psychopaths guilty of crimes committed for gain were included in the régime.

It was Stürup's firm conviction that detention for an indeterminate period was a prerequisite for successful treatment, a concept that was to run counter to the developing trend in Danish criminology which favoured determinate sentences. As a result of this changing attitude in sentencing combined with a fundamental scepticism towards the effectiveness of the