

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

ROBERT FREELAND BARBOUR, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist to Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children and United Bristol Hospitals, and Senior Consultant to Bristol Child and Family Guidance Service



Robert (Bob) Barbour, who died suddenly at his home on 3 December 1989, was born on 27 March 1904. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Gresham's School and St John's College, Cambridge. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University where he graduated MB, ChB in 1929. He took both the London and Edinburgh MRCP in

1935 and proceeded to the Fellowship of the former in 1946 and the latter in 1940. Having decided on a career in psychiatry, he studied in Boston and Johns Hopkins in the USA and then returned to the Maudsley where he trained in analytic psychotherapy in child guidance. He took the DPM in 1932 and was made a Foundation Fellow of the College in 1971.

In 1936 he was appointed Director of the Child Guidance Clinic in Bristol at a time when child guidance and child psychiatry were in their infancy, and much foresight and energy were required both to establish an effective service and plan their future development.

His plans were interrupted by the outbreak of war, when he was invited to become one of the original seven specialists in psychological medicine to the Army. His distinguished wartime career included service as Specialist with the rank of Brigadier, to the Middle East Forces, and on his return to England as adviser in psychiatry to the 45th Division, which included working with returning prisoners of war.

On his return to Bristol in 1946, he was able to devote all his enthusiasm and enormous energy to developing a highly regarded child guidance service, with an early emphasis on the concept of multi-professional team work, a method which only in recent times has been extended to other fields of medicine. Appointment to the staff of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children allowed him the

opportunity to develop an out-patient department of child psychiatry, one of the first in this country to have, at his request, the appointment of a Psychiatric Social Worker. This appointment, and his foresight, allowed the development of cooperative working between the hospital and child guidance departments, avoiding the situation which arose in many parts of the country where child guidance developed as a local authority service often isolated from general medicine. He encouraged interest in the psychiatric aspects of juvenile delinquency and developed a much appreciated advisory service to the juvenile courts, and as a manager was much involved with the local approved schools and classifying school.

He was an enthusiast for his subject and his appointment as honorary lecturer to the department of physiology of the University of Bristol, and subsequently to the department of mental health allowed him to influence the teaching of medical students early in their training. He took an active part in the affairs of the College and from 1960–63 was chairman of the South Western Division.

Away from his work he showed his pride in his Scottish ancestry, particularly in his love for Scottish dance societies at whose gatherings, tall and handsome in his kilt, he was a popular and skilled performer. He loved also to explore the mountains of the highlands and kept this up until his last years. His enthusiasm never waned and he was learning craft skills up to the time of his death. He is survived by his wife Pat, his son Donald and daughters Joan and Fiona.

WLW

MICHAEL FRANK DIXON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Roundway Hospital, Devizes

Michael Dixon, who died on 25 February 1990, was born in Calcutta in 1921 where his father held a post as an accountant. At the age of 9 he fell severely ill with tuberculosis and was given the last Rites. He survived. He completed his schooling at Ampleforth before entering Oxford to study Philosophy and Classics. His time there was interrupted by a period of army service before he obtained his BA. He then decided to study medicine which he did at St George's Hospital Medical School where he met his wife, Norah. On qualifying he took a post in chest diseases at St Albans' Hospital before entering psychiatry, a course that he had already decided upon

several years before. His training then continued as registrar and senior registrar at the Maudsley before obtaining a consultant post at Roundway Hospital, Devizes. He obtained the MRCP in 1956, the DPM in 1960, and was elected to the Fellowship in 1980.

Michael had an immense and all inclusive interest and enjoyment in the good things of life which he unselfishly and generously shared with all around him. When I first met him 25 years ago he was director of a therapeutic community at the hospital, in spite of the abolition of the post of Medical Superintendent. Overall there was his intense interest and empathy with people – patient, friend or colleague – with flashes of insight into character and diagnosis which owed as much to literature and his broad cultural base as his excellent knowledge of psychiatry. He loved personal anecdotes and idiosyncracies and quirks which made his patients instantly recognisable but which were linked with an objective scientific detachment and a sense of humour. He even applied this clinical fascination to his own last illness; amazed that after his stroke he immediately lost all craving for cigarettes but also his appreciation of music which had been one of his former great joys. He felt that these events were deserving of scientific investigation. His psychiatric skills were complemented by his ability to make people feel appreciated and part of a team. He knew everyone in the hospital, from nurses to cleaners, and they turned to him as a natural conductor of a hospital symphony. Last but not least, and as part of a very happy and devoted marriage, Michael and Norah were the perfect hosts creating total happenings rather than just parties where each individual's interests were catered for and mind and body were magnificently nourished. We shall be very lucky to experience his like again and he will be deeply missed as a colleague and friend.

HN

GERALD JAMES GOLDBERG, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Goodmayes Hospital, Essex

Gerald Goldberg died on 15 November 1989 aged 68 years after a long illness courageously fought.

After qualification at the University of Witwatersrand in 1944 and army service, he decided to specialise in neuropsychiatry and began his training at Tara Hospital in Johannesburg.

He came to England for the first time in 1949 and was a registrar at the Maudsley. He obtained the DPM in 1951, and the MRCP in 1952. He was elected to the Foundation Membership of the College in 1971 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1975. In 1972 he was elected FRCP. He held posts at Friern and St Pancras Hospitals, before returning to South Africa in 1952 for family reasons. There he joined the consultant staff of Tara Hospital, but disliked the market place aspects of private practice and was

also unhappy with political developments. After the Sharpeville massacre in 1961 he returned to England with the aim of working full-time in the NHS, which he greatly admired.

He had a choice of consultant posts and came to Goodmayes Hospital to which he devoted the rest of his working life. The first challenge was the development of a psychogeriatric service, which later became a specialist unit. He then applied himself to general adult psychiatry and despite extremely restricted resources developed a very active out-patients service at St Mary's and Queen Mary's Hospitals, supported by acute and long-stay beds at Goodmayes, and with Newham Social Services Department pioneered a community approach. He later played a major part in setting up the first day hospital at Newham. Current developments which will eventually provide the District with its own comprehensive service owe much to this foundation.

Teaching was a particular interest. He initiated structured postgraduate training at Goodmayes, which involved teaching in his 'spare' time for many years. He later became its first clinical tutor, and played a major part in developing a fully equipped teaching centre. He served on the College's accreditation panel which provided opportunities to learn about developments in other hospitals.

Gerald Goldberg was a thoughtful and modest person who was devoted to the well-being of all his patients including the most disabled or long-term. His clinical approach was characterised by a wide knowledge, balanced with a critical edge, attributes which emerge clearly in his contributions to the literature. He was invariably kind and courteous in his dealings with patients and staff and supportive to consultant colleagues who responded with respect and affection. There was a widespread sense of loss when illness forced his premature retirement in 1983.

In his retirement he enjoyed writing and he had several articles published, including an account of an acute haemolytic episode in his illness from which his habitual self-effacement and courage emerge clearly.

He was greatly supported by his wife, Annette, and by their children.

DA

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

KONRAD LORENZ, Professor, Forschungsstelle für Ethologie, Konrad-Lorenz-Institut der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, A-3422, Altenberg, Austria.

HENRY ST JOHN MANSBRIDGE, formerly Senior Medical Officer, Prison Department, Home Office

LAURA M. D. MILL, formerly Medical Commissioner, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.