

Obituaries



Douglas Harley Bennett, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Maudsley Hospital, London

Douglas Bennett, who died on 30 August 1997, was one of the leading exponents of psychiatric rehabilitation both in the UK and farther afield. The College recognised his achievements by awarding him an Honorary Fellowship in 1986. Born in 1918 of West Country origin, he qualified MB, BS (London) in 1941 at St Bartholomew's Hospital, where the teaching of E. B. Strauss impressed him. After service in the Navy, he obtained a post at the Hammersmith Hospital, already a buzzing hive of research-based medicine. That experience of research and the development of theory influenced his whole approach. His psychiatric trainers included T. P. Rees and Maxwell Jones, and culminated with Rudolf Freudenberg, Physician Superintendent, at Netherne, where he obtained a consultant post. Freudenberg had been very struck by the research of Brian Ackner and Arthur Harris which indicated that the beneficial effects of insulin therapy derived from social rather than biochemical processes. He had started an activity-based programme for the entire hospital, staff and patients, and ensured that the effects were assessed by high-quality research. Netherne

soon became a Mecca for social psychiatry, and the obvious place to find someone who would help to launch the Maudsley Hospital's new enterprise of taking responsibility for a catchment area, against the precept of its founder, who had insisted that it treated only 'voluntary' patients.

Douglas started in 1962 at the day hospital, which had originally opened only for women with neurotic problems. Within a few years, helped by colleagues of all disciplines eager to work with such an inspiring man, he had set up a range of facilities for people with serious long-term mental illness, while the Camberwell Register, run by John and Lorna Wing, monitored the service and provided a sampling frame for research. Douglas's greatest assets were his own energy, and skills both in clinical work and in setting up and running services. While not a research worker himself, he used the approach of the best research in combining theory and practice and developing both together. This stamped all his work and made his teaching a stimulating experience for all involved in the enterprise of providing 'community care'. Undogmatic, modest, humorous and yet deeply serious, he enjoyed exchanging views with others. In the preface to his most important book, written with Fraser Watts (*The Theory and Practice of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*) he thanked "those who have contributed by upsetting cherished notions and forcing me to think in new ways".

The list was an international one. His teaching and advice were in demand well beyond the Maudsley and the UK. An adviser to the World Health Organization, he had many colleagues in other parts of Europe, particularly Germany and Holland, and the USA. These visitors provided an extra yeast to the multi-disciplinary ferment of his units.

After his retirement in 1982, he continued to travel, teach and write. His sudden final illness began at the Warneford Hospital, Oxford, while he was accompanying a resident from a local hostel where he was a helper.

J. L. T. BIRLEY

David Rice, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist Hellingly Hospital, Sussex

David Rice, a distinguished Senior Fellow of the College, died of heart failure on 13 September

1997. He was born in 1914, the son of Dr David Rice MD. During the Second World War he served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1939–1947, achieving the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant Commander.

David was educated at Cambridge and St George's Hospital, London where he qualified MRCS, LRCP in 1939. He graduated MBB Chir (Cantab) in 1942 and proceeded to the MD in 1951. He was elected to the Foundation Fellowship of our College in 1971.

He began his psychiatric training as a registrar at St George's and was then appointed assistant medical officer at Graylingwell Hospital, Sussex, later to be promoted to Deputy Superintendent. In 1956, he was appointed Medical Superintendent of Hellingly Hospital, Sussex where he was to remain until he retired from the National Health Service in 1979. Contemporaneously he served as consultant psychiatrist to the Eastbourne Hospitals and as a consultant forensic psychiatrist to the Home Office, as such he continued by request until 1987. Additionally, he served as a member of the South East Metropolitan Hospital Board.

An excellent administrator, David achieved the necessary reorganisation and staff changes at Hellingly rapidly and smoothly. He was an able clinician, with the gift of easy rapport, which made him well liked by both patients and staff. Highly regarded professionally, he was greatly valued by general practitioners of East Sussex.

Despite a heavy workload he maintained clinical liaison with colleagues and was President of the Eastbourne Medical Society in 1973. An early protagonist of lithium therapy he published a paper which was well received.

A good games player, David was fanatically keen on cricket and was an excellent all-rounder. He played for Sussex in wartime matches, for the Royal Navy at cricket (and hockey) 1944–1947, and for the Services v. Australian Services at Portsmouth 1946. After the Second World War he played for Norfolk and for years for the Duke of Norfolk's XI. He last played first-class cricket when 47! He served on the Sussex County Cricket Club Committee for 30 years, was Chairman 1981–1986, served on the Test and County Cricket Board and was a Life-Vice-President of Sussex CCC. He was also President of the Sussex Cricket Society.

In 1974 he had a near fatal attack of the Guillain-Barré syndrome. Recovery was slow but surprisingly full. Despite residual sensory and motor deficits he returned to work, drove his car and even played golf again. In 1976 he had a fractured neck of femur pinned following a fall.

For years he suffered severe back pain, diagnosed as post-Guillain-Barré. Eventually it proved due to osteoarthritis of the hip joints. Being David, he elected to have bilateral replacements at one operation, and was up and walking in 10 days.

His wife, Joan, by whom he had four children (one a consultant psychiatrist) died in 1980. In 1983 he married Mary and with her enjoyed 14 very happy years.

HUGH M. RICE

Richard David Stevenson, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, St Brendan's Hospital, Dublin

Dr Stevenson, who died in Dublin on 27 October 1997, was the youngest of three sons to Walter Stevenson, the pioneer Dublin radiotherapist and physician to Dr Steevens' Hospital. His mother died in a drowning accident in 1929 and his father died in 1931. He was then brought up by his great-aunts in Leinster Road, where he and, his wife, Martine later entertained their friends and colleagues.

He was educated at St Columba's College and served in the Irish Guards, seeing active service in Germany. He qualified in medicine from Trinity College in 1957 and after house appointments at Dr Steevens' Hospital was Registrar to the Neurosurgical Unit at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin. He gained the MD in 1967.

He started his psychiatric training at St Bernard's Hospital, Hanwell, where he was fortunate to work with Max Glatt. He worked at Morgnngw Hospital Bridgend, then at Purdysburn and Shaftesbury Square Hospitals, Belfast. He was appointed to the staff of St Brendan's Hospital Dublin in 1966 and developed the St Dymphna's service for people in alcohol trouble. He retired in 1988.

He tended to belittle many of his own achievements, but was happy to identify with precision and wit the shortcomings of his friends. He was a valued lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He enjoyed making and painting pots in the pottery he built for himself at Howth Road. Further, he enjoyed 'mischief', gardening and walks over Howth and other expeditions. He leaves his wife, Martine, his daughter, who works as a psychiatric nurse, his three sons, his grandchildren and the influence of a man of singular independence of mind and wit.

HENRY BURKE AND PATRICK MULLIN