
Obituaries

Brian Davy, formerly Consultant with Special Interest in Student Mental Health, Addenbrooke's & Fulbourn Hospitals, Cambridge

Brian Davy, one of the pioneers of student mental health services, died in Cambridge on 11 June 1993, aged 79.

Brian was born in 1914 and grew up in North London. After Oxford (Jesus College) he studied medicine at St Mary's, graduating MB, BS(Hnrs) London in 1941 and passing soon into the Navy (1942–46) where he had an eventful career as a medical officer on destroyers and landing craft. He saw action on the Russian convoys (mention in despatches), in the Atlantic and later the Indian Oceans.

His war service gave him a deep interest in preventive medicine and after the war he decided to seek this in public health, taking the DPH in 1947 in which year he was awarded the MD(Lond). He became particularly interested in student health problems, particularly tuberculosis which presented a grave danger for younger adults in those days. He worked at Bristol (1947–48) and Oxford (1948–51) and then in 1951 came to Cambridge and joined the Student Health Service being built up by Sir Alan Rook.

By this time Brian had come to see that psychological problems, particularly of vulnerable students, presented a far greater danger than tuberculosis (by then responding to antibiotics). He began studying psychiatry at Fulbourn Hospital and psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic, passing the DPM in 1953. In 1958 he joined the National Health Service in a specially created post of Consultant with Special Interest in Student Health. He was elected to the foundation fellowship of the College in 1971.

In the 1950s it was quite difficult to convince the dons and tutors of the need of Cambridge undergraduates for specialist psychiatric support: "A chat with the College chaplain and more cold showers is what they need!" was a common response. Brian set out to change these attitudes and because of the devoted care he gave to disturbed students and his patient willingness to talk and to explain to the most obdurate tutor, brought about a remarkable change in attitude over the next decades. Together with Dr Ruth Young, he developed an effective, flexible and caring service for disturbed undergraduates, particularly those manifesting acute psychoses. He was President of the British Student Health Association in 1968/69. The World Health

Organization used him as a consultant in the USA, Europe, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

In later years the university developed its own counselling service and Brian continued to develop his psychotherapy and clinical work, a senior, respected and much loved consultant at Addenbrooke's and at Fulbourn.

His personal interest was always the countryside, especially Wales, walking its hills, caravanning and sailing its seas. After his retirement in 1979 he continued to be very active, becoming a devoted radio 'ham', a noted photographer and active member of the Cambridge University of the Third Age. Unfortunately, a few years ago, he developed bone metastases from a prostate believed at operation to be benign; he remained fairly well until the last months of acute and painful decline borne with great courage.

Brian and Dorothy, also a doctor, were devoted to their extensive family, who by 1992 counted four children and 13 grandchildren.

DAVID CLARK

Roy Douglas Hamilton Maxwell, formerly Consultant in Electrophysiology, Pinderfields General Hospital and Consultant Psychiatrist Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield

Roy Maxwell, who died on 9 August 1993, was brought up in Ayrshire and after graduating in Science, BSc (1940), and Medicine, MB ChB (1943), at the University of Glasgow he served in the Royal Army Medical Corp. He was awarded the MD(Glas) in 1955 and in 1962 was elected MRCP(Glas) proceeding to the Fellowship in 1975.

Most of his training was in medicine and neurology at the Western Infirmary Glasgow and he published articles in various journals. Later, he trained in psychiatry and from 1962 he held a joint post as consultant in charge of the Department of Electrophysiology at Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield and consultant in psychiatry at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield. He was elected MRCPsych in 1971 and FRCPsych in 1974.

He was a man of widely reaching interests and in his home he had, and used, a well equipped small engineering workshop. However, his main interests were small boats and light aircraft. He and his wife owned numerous small boats when in Scotland and later, they both held Private Pilots' licences and for many years flew their own aircraft (Beagle Pup G-BDCO). Many a new