

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

ANDREW NOBLE GRAHAM, formerly Physician Superintendent, St Crispin Hospital, Northampton, and Consultant Psychiatrist, St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton

Andrew Noble Graham was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on 2 November 1909 and died, after some years of failing physical health, on 3 July 1989.

Dr Graham, a Foundation Fellow of the College, qualified MB, BS from Durham in 1933 and after hospital posts, which included two years at Knowle, and a period in general practice, he joined the RAMC on the outbreak of war. He became a specialist psychiatrist with the rank of Major, during which time he spent two years in the military hospitals at Clifton, York, and at Northfield, Birmingham. With others he was involved in the development of new techniques of treatment and rehabilitation of psychiatric battle casualties, and developed his psychotherapeutic skills. Then followed over two years as a District Psychiatrist with Scottish Command.

He was appointed physician superintendent of St Crispin hospital in 1953 when it was still suffering the deprivations of the war years. He worked with dogged persistence and success to improve both the material and social environments in which the patients and staff lived and worked. At that time some psychiatric hospitals were riven by conflict between authoritarian physician superintendents and the holders of the newly created NHS posts of consultant psychiatrist. Andrew Graham, however, led by example and persuasion, steadily sharing responsibility with his consultant colleagues in an effort to liberalise the hospital regime as a whole. The strategy of his administrative work was to improve the scope for individuals, both staff and patients, to fulfil themselves. The staff responded with loyalty and affection, and the patients with gratitude.



He was an innovator, and mainly responsible for a series of new developments, which included new peripheral out-patient clinics, an industrial therapy unit in 1957, a physical rehabilitation unit run by a remedial gymnast in 1959, a psychiatric day hospital in Northampton, and sectorisation of the county and a joint social work scheme with the local authorities. In 1968 he pioneered the deployment of community psychiatric nurses attached to a group practice in Kettering for work with the elderly.

However, his primary interest was in the personal treatment of individual patients for whom he had deep compassion and understanding, and, as a result, in 1972, he moved as consultant to St Andrew's hospital where, free from most administrative responsibilities, he devoted his time and energies to direct clinical work until his retirement in 1979.

Gentle and always courteous, his authority was recognised in his chairmanship of the psychiatric advisory committee for the Oxford region, and in his senior vice presidency of the Oxford postgraduate fellowship of psychiatry.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and by their son and daughter.

PHR

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

KENNETH MCLEOD ARMIT, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, Fife, Scotland.

ROBERT CAMPBELL CUNNINGHAM, formerly Medical Superintendent, Royal Albert Hospital, Lancaster.

THOMAS HOUSTON GRAHAM DICK, 32 Augusta Road, Hobart, Tasmania 7008, Australia.

TURNER MCLARDY, MBE, Consultant Psychiatrist, Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601, USA.

PULAK KUMAR MUKHERJEE, Consultant Psychiatrists, Monkslands District General Hospital, Airdrie, Lanarkshire.

ARTHUR EDWARD PERCY SWINSON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Coldeast Hospital, Salisbury Green, Southampton.