

## Linford Rees

### A Personal Profile

William Linford Llewelyn Rees was born in 1914 at Burry Port in Carmarthenshire. He has always been proud of his Welsh origin, and the appreciation which his fellow-countrymen have for him is shown by his being made an Honorary Bard at the National Eisteddfod held at Criccieth in August this year.

He took a B.Sc. in psychology, indicating his early interest in the specialty he was to follow, and after winning a scholarship and many prizes qualified in medicine at the University of Wales in 1938. He held psychiatric appointments at Powick and Claybury Hospitals and then at the Maudsley Hospital, London, where he became Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Physician. In 1948 he returned to the 'grass roots' of his native country as Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Superintendent at Whitchurch Hospital and then as Regional Adviser in Psychiatry to Wales and Monmouthshire. But in 1954 he came to London again as Physician to the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, and five years later succeeded Eric Strauss as Physician-in-Charge of the Department of Psychological Medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He retained a part-time appointment at the Bethlem-Maudsley until 1966, when he gave this up (and a flourishing private practice too) to become Professor of Psychiatry at St. Bartholomew's Medical College.

Linford Rees has had a very distinguished career in clinical and academic psychiatry. He was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1960. He has had a special interest in psychosomatic disorders, and his researches, particularly into asthma and premenstrual tension, are well known. He was one of the first to introduce the technique of controlled clinical trials into psychiatry and has long been a leading authority on the evaluation of psychotropic drugs. More recently he has been actively involved in research into the care of the mentally handicapped.

Joining the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in 1947, Linford Rees was Chairman of the Research and Clinical Section from 1957 to 1963, and from 1958 was Secretary and then Chairman of the Papers and Discussions Committee. He was a member of the Council of the R.M.P.A. from 1957. On the formation of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971 he was elected Vice-President and also became Chairman of the East Anglian Regional Division. In his election to the Presidency in July this year, Professor Linford Rees becomes the second holder of that office in succession to Sir Martin Roth.

The new President has said that he regards the training of psychiatrists as his first concern. His experience in this field is very great. At the Maudsley and Bethlem he was intimately involved in the teaching of postgraduate students, and at St. Bartholomew's he developed a three-month full-time training programme for the undergraduate students. He has been Chairman of the Clinical Tutors' Psychiatric Committee for the North-East Metropolitan Region and since 1971 senior London examiner for the M.R.C.Psych. examination. But his interests and activities have extended to almost every aspect of psychiatry; he is a Trustee and Honorary Member of the Institute of Group Analysis, a member of the Council of the Royal College of Physicians, and a member of the Committee for the Safety of Medicines. He is widely travelled, and is a member of numerous foreign and international societies; and, as Treasurer of the World Psychiatric Association, he is well aware of the national and international problems facing the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

However well fitted for the job, the problems facing a new President are daunting. Every member and supporter of the College will wish Linford Rees well in the responsibility which he now assumes.



Professor W. Linford Rees