

Obituary

JOHN STUART HARRIS, formerly Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor and Physician Superintendent, Claybury Hospital, Essex.

Dr John Stuart Harris died on 2 May 1986 aged 85, after a long and painful illness.

Born in Lincolnshire, he received both his general and medical education at Edinburgh, graduating in 1922. After holding posts at Hanwell and West Park Hospitals, he joined the staff of the Maudsley Hospital, working for four years under Professor Edward Mapother, whom he admired, before returning to West Park Hospital as Deputy Physician Superintendent. In 1939, at the early age of 38, he became Physician Superintendent of Claybury Hospital, where he stayed until 1961. He held the post of Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor for four years subsequently.

Stuart Harris was a shy and reticent man, and did not publicise his achievements. Yet the consultants who worked with him remember him as one of the best of this country's Physician Superintendents and his administration at Claybury as wise, patient and benign. He opened wards at a time when this was unusual, and opened psychiatric out-patient clinics at St Clement's Hospital, Bow, and at the North Middlesex Hospital. Quietly and patiently, he introduced liberal change to Claybury, and at the same time carefully selected the next generation of Claybury psychiatrists.

Without this preparation, Claybury would not have been ready to play its leading role in the development of the therapeutic community movement in the late fifties and sixties. His achievement is that he laid the path which John Pippard, the late Denis Martin and others have followed.

Stuart and his wife, Kathleen, a psychiatric nurse who worked at the Maudsley Hospital, retired to Sheringham, Norfolk, to enjoy playing golf and bridge. His friends remember him as a witty and dignified man. Their son, Robert, a probation officer, married a psychiatric nurse. Their daughter, Eileen, is married to a former Claybury Registrar, Graham Evans; they are now both Consultant Psychiatrists at Kingseat Hospital, New Zealand. Claybury Ward, at Kingseat, testifies to their roots.

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PHILIP REGINALD ALDRIDGE MAY, Della Martin Professor in Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute, Los Angeles, California, USA.

Professor May, a native Englishman, died of abdominal cancer at his home in Malibu, California, in December of last year at the age of 66.

He was born in Weymouth on 30 May 1920, and received his initial medical education at Cambridge and Guy's. He graduated MB, BChir(Cantab) in 1944 and was elected MRCP (London) in 1947. He continued his studies at Stanford University, California, and was awarded the MD

in 1946. In 1978 he was elected MRCPsych, and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1983.

In recognition of his distinguished services to psychiatry he was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Gothenberg, Sweden, one of many awards of national and international importance he was to receive.

Having decided to emigrate permanently to the USA, it was in that country that he was first to make his mark. He joined the UCLA faculty in 1956, and was appointed clinical director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute in 1962. Then, in 1977, he was selected to become the first incumbent of the newly founded Della Martin chair of psychiatry.

Professor May enjoyed a worldwide reputation as an authority on the treatment of schizophrenia for which, it is interesting to note, he used the eponymous term 'Bleuler's Disease', in an important paper he delivered to the annual meeting of the American College of Psychiatrists as recently as February, 1986.

He was a prolific writer and apart from his magnum opus, *The Treatment of Schizophrenia*, published in 1968, he contributed more than 160 scientific publications to the literature.

As the result of his intensive studies over many years, May was able to demonstrate that of the available treatments for schizophrenia, patients treated either with drugs alone, or with drugs plus psychotherapy, did best. Those treated with milieu therapy or psychotherapy by themselves fared worst, whereas those treated with ECT "fell somewhere in the middle." The objective proof he provided of the superiority of psychopharmacological drugs in the treatment of schizophrenia is obviously one of prime importance.

In subsequent research May attempted to identify a method whereby the outcome of a particular treatment could be predicted. He claimed that a patient's response to a single test dose of a particular medication provided an accurate predictor of the long-range outcome. He was further concerned with the side effects of anti-psychotic medication, particularly those distressing involuntary movements such as akathisia and tardive dyskinesia.

Professor May was an attractive writer. His papers are enlivened by his wry sense of humour. For example, the paper referred to above concludes, "It is a wise therapist who knows the difference between a magician and a wizard. Psychotic patients can sense the difference—they can tell when a therapist is out of touch with reality."

ROLF STRÖM-OLSEN, formerly Physician Superintendent, Runwell Hospital, Essex.

Dr Rolf Ström-Olsen, First Physician Superintendent of Runwell Hospital, died aged 84 on 14 October 1986. Born in Oslo of Norwegian parents, he was educated there and in

Cardiff before graduating at the National University of Wales—BSc in 1925, MB in 1930, MD in 1933. After becoming First Assistant in Professor A. M. Kennedy's Department of Medicine in Cardiff he turned to psychiatry and took his DPM in 1930. He joined P. K. McCowan as his deputy at Cardiff City Mental Hospital, where at the time Quastel was working, and where he was introduced to the idea of fundamental as well as clinical research being organised within the mental hospital.

He moved to Derby Borough Mental Hospital before being appointed to Runwell—the last comprehensive psychiatric hospital to be built in this country—and it was there that he spent 30 years of his working life. He recognised his good fortune in having the most modern hospital in the country in his care, incorporating what were then many new ideas—a mixed sex common room for the admission wards, neurosis units, small wards and numerous private rooms. He developed an active clinical policy and was early in the provision of out-patients' services not only for adults but also for children. He developed what he had seen in Cardiff and introduced not only biochemistry but neurophysiology, neuropathology and psychology into the hospital and facilitated the work of the talented group he attracted there—Greville, Weil-Malherbe, Last, Lehmann, Corsellis, Brodie, Foulds. This was during an era in which there were few academic departments and little interest in psychiatry in the teaching hospitals. He founded a well-stocked medical library and ran an academic programme with invited speakers on a regular basis shortly after the war.

He was an accomplished linguist and keen amateur musician. In the 1930s, starting while still in Cardiff, he helped with great personal kindness many German and Austrian psychiatrists, who had escaped the Nazis. He always maintained his Scandinavian links, leading and hosting study tours at various times. He was an Honorary Member of the Norwegian Psychological Society and a Chevalier of the Royal Order of St Olav. He played an active part in the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, was Secretary of the Library Committee in 1946/8, Chairman of the South-Eastern Division 1962/4 and a member of a number of other committees. He was President of the

psychological section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1959 and, even after his retirement, completed a survey of patients treated with selective psycho-surgery, in which he had been interested for some 20 years. Psychiatrists who worked at or visited Runwell and the physicians and surgeons who were billeted there during the war will always remember his personal kindness, sharp sense of humour and the hospitality that he and his wife Elsie, who survives him, so generously offered.

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The deaths of the following have also been reported:

- BRUCE HOSEGOOD BURNS, Consultant Psychiatrist, Hollymoor Hospital, Birmingham.
 ALEXANDER ELKES, Consultant Psychiatrist, Pastures Hospital, Mickleover, Derby.
 ALAN JAMES GARDNER, Consultant Psychiatrist, German Hospital, London E8.
 WILLIAM VICTOR LIVINGSTON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Great and Little Westhatch Hospitals, Harlow, Essex.
 ALICE MCGLASHAN, retired, 198 Copland Road, Glasgow.
 JAMES ROBERTSON MATHERS, formerly Medical Superintendent, Rubery Hill Hospital, Birmingham.
 REGINALD WARREN MEDLICOTT, Emeritus Professor, 11 Kew Grove, Raumatī Beach, New Zealand.
 ØRNULVÅ ØDEGÅRD, Formerly Medical Superintendent, Gaustarb Psychiatric Hospital, Oslo 3, Norway.
 PHILIP PINKERTON, retired, 59 The Bowls, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell, Essex.
 DAVID HENRY ROPSCITZ, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Halifax General Hospital Yorkshire.
 ANDREW CROYDON SMITH, Consultant Psychiatrist, Greenwich District Hospital, London SE10.
 MARTIN VANYAN, Consultant Psychiatrist, Ballamona Hospital, Braddan, Isle of Man.
 JACK MORRISON WHITE, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Stanley Royal Hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
 TUDNO GWYNNE WILLIAMS, formerly Physician Superintendent, North Wales Hospital, Denbigh, Wales.

Residential Group for Helping Professionals

A five day residential group for mental health professionals will be held at Grimstone Manor, Yelverton, Devon from 28 June until 4 July 1987. The group will provide an opportunity for retreat, reflection and personal therapy and is specifically intended for mental health professionals whose

work involves counselling or psychotherapy. A description of similar groups in 1983 and 1984 appeared in the *Bulletin*, February 1986, 10, 27-38. Further information can be obtained from Dr Richard Tillet, Wonford House Hospital, Exeter EX2 5AF (telephone 0392 77358).

Frenchay Health Authority Annual Symposium

Ageing in the Mentally Handicapped: A Multidisciplinary Approach, the first Frenchay Health Authority Annual

Symposium is to be held at the Students' Union, University of Bristol, on 23 and 24 April 1987.