

the TD for his long and distinguished service in the Territorial Army.

After demobilisation he succeeded Dr Rankin as consultant psychiatrist at Walton Hospital, Liverpool. He started with a few in-patient beds, but by 1948 he was able to set up his own exclusively psychiatric unit in a three storey former medical block. At that time, he was one of the few consultant psychiatrists in this country to have an in-patient unit which was not in a designated observation ward or mental hospital.

He was, therefore, one of the forerunners of modern psychiatric treatment in units in district general hospitals. It is a measure of the respect in which he was held in the hospital that he was able to set up his unit in so short a time after joining the staff.

Dr Vaillant had his own individual style of psychotherapy but was nevertheless eclectic in his approach to treatment.

I remember that we were using anaesthesia and relaxant drugs to modify ECT long before the local mental hospital was able to do this.

He had an extensive private practice and was in much demand as a legal expert in both civil and criminal cases. He worked also for many years as consultant to the DHSS in pension assessment.

He was a man of great charm and had a puckish sense of humour. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues, especially by those, like myself, whom he trained.

He married in 1940 and is survived by his widow, two married daughters, and a son, a general practitioner in Liverpool.

ROBERT H. MARTLEW

**William Ballantine Wright, formerly Physician Superintendent, Craig Phadrig Hospital, Inverness; Senior Lecturer, University of Aberdeen**



Bill Wright died on 30 June 1993, aged 67. His contribution to the field of mental health was considerable. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and St Mungo's College, Glasgow, qualifying LMSSA (London) in 1950 and gaining the DPM (London) in 1958. He was elected FRCPsych in 1978.

Before becoming the first Physician Superintendent of Craig

Phadrig Hospital he had been registrar at Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich, area psychiatrist at Tidworth, Wiltshire and Deputy Superintendent at the Royal Scottish National Institution, Larbert, Stirlingshire. With this background he brought clinical and administrative experience to supervising the opening of Craig Phadrig by HRH Princess Alexandra in 1968.

His continued dedication to his chosen branch of psychiatry built up wide respect for the hospital. He travelled widely over the Highland and Island area. He pioneered many associated developments for the mentally handicapped and disabled. He had high clinical acumen, enthusiasm and a penetrating mind. He brought help, support and security to many families throughout the area. His sage observations on the very real problems of mental deficiency were enlivened by his quiet pawky humour. He was indeed a realist. He was too balanced a thinker of too high a calibre to apply the dogma of an all-or-none-law to mental defect and community care. His tenure of office was initially associated with a productively stable period in the NHS. His advice was much sought after both inside and outside the service. The facilities possessed by his base, Craig Phadrig, were excellent. They included a first-class swimming pool and teaching classrooms as well as wide ranging occupational therapy which could develop to some degree the most limited of inherent capacity.

In 1982 Bill retired to Grantown on Spey. There he enjoyed the country town life with his wife, Molly. His latter years were clouded by incurable illness. This he bore with fortitude. Molly and two daughters survive him.

MARTIN WHITTET

**The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

- THOMAS EGGLESTON BURROWS, formerly Medical Superintendent; Greystones, Oxenhall, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1RN.
- THOMAS MATTHEW COLLINS, retired Consultant Psychiatrist; 1 Kill Abbey, Kill O' the Grange, Blackrock, Co Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
- DAVID GILMOUR, retired, formerly Medical Director, Psychiatric Services, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.
- ALEXANDER LEITCH, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Glenside and Barrow Hospital Group, Bristol.
- NORMAN CRANSTON LOW, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist; Medical Director, Priory Suite, Nuffield Hospital, Leicester.
- ROY DOUGLAS HAMILTON MAXWELL, retired; 32 Aberford Road, Wakefield, WF1 4AJ.
- MILDRED ISOBEL POTT, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist; 3 Blenheim Road, London W4 1UB.
- JOAN METCALF RIDLEY, retired, formerly Director, Tamarind Centre, Casuarina, North Territory 5792, Australia.