

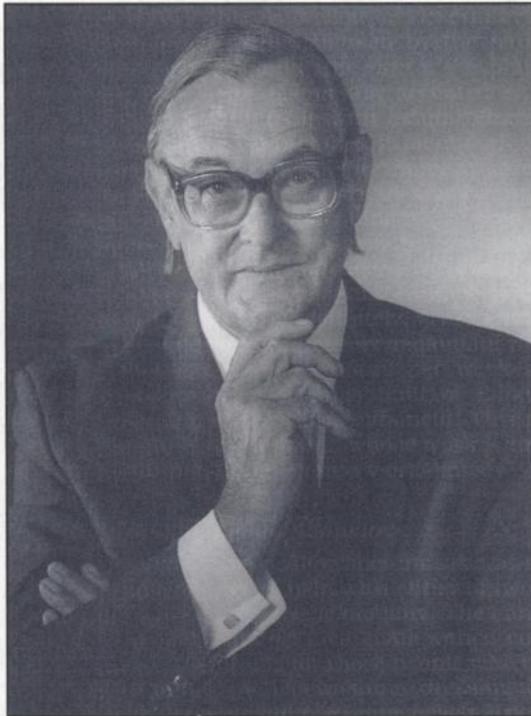
Lawrence's he took a locum post for five years at the Royal Earlswood Hospital, Surrey.

While at Caterham John Gibson started writing, first a short history of the hospital and then medical textbooks. He found this greatly satisfying and enjoyed the research and developing the lucid presentation of a variety of medical and health related matters. His only attempt at a crime novel was rejected, but more than 25 textbooks were published, revised and translated into many languages. From writing he moved into specialist indexing of scientific and medical textbooks, starting from an impassioned request from a frantic publisher, in need of an index. He loved this complex work. He was a committee member of the Society of Indexers and won the Society of Librarians' Wheatley Medal.

If not involved in two, or even three, indexes at a time, sometimes from overseas sources, he enjoyed walking in the countryside, brushing up his French, German, Italian and Serbo-Croat, reading a wide range of fiction from Proust to Raymond Chandler and, despite increasing deafness, listening to grand opera. When able, he enjoyed travel, especially to the former Yugoslavia and after that, the support of former nationals in many parts of the world.

John Gibson married twice. First to Sybil Hooper, by whom he had three sons and second to Jennifer Jarvis.

R. O. GIBSON



**Philip Henry Connell, CBE**, formerly Director of Drug Dependence Clinical Research and Treatment and Maudsley and Bethlem Hospital, London

Philip Connell, who died on 26 July 1998 aged 77 years, was a big man, not only in stature, but also in his impact on the fields in which he

operated. A meeting with Philip Connell always left an impression.

Philip Connell's successful career in medicine did not begin until his twenties when a legacy enabled him to commence his medical studies. After qualifying from St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, he trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley during the 1950s and was then appointed as a new consultant psychiatrist in Newcastle, charged with developing a new child and adolescent psychiatric service – an interest which he maintained throughout his life. Six years later, having established a thriving unit, he was appointed as a consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospital in London, where he continued to work until his retirement in 1986. He became especially interested in the new growing problem of drug misuse among adolescents. Drug misuse among the young in the early and mid-1960s particularly involved misuse of amphetamines – an issue which had previously intrigued Connell and had been the subject of his MD thesis several years earlier. From this position he conceived, argued for, developed and then led the new combined clinical and research unit – the Drug Dependence Clinical Research and Treatment Unit – which was to be the base at the Maudsley from which he operated for the next 20 years. Treatment within this unit addressed the problems of a wide range of young people with addiction problems, not only the stereotypical addict injecting heroin, but also the pill-popping oral amphetamine misuser.

While his work in drug dependence came to be the major part of his contribution through most of his working life, he maintained an interest and clinical presence in child psychiatry throughout his professional career. He was the first chairman

of the specialist section on child and adolescent psychiatry at the time of the creation of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971, and, following his retirement from NHS practice, he became substantially involved in advising on cases of alleged sexual abuse of children.

His greatest academic and research contribution is usually considered to be his classic study of amphetamine psychosis, which also formed the subject of his MD thesis and consequent Maudsley Monograph. In this work, he explored and demarcated the condition, using laboratory techniques of paper chromatography which, while they may seem unremarkable today, were exciting innovations in their time. However, an alternative view is that his greatest contribution in this area could perhaps be seen as lying elsewhere. In establishing his unit at the Maudsley and Bethlem, he fostered the expectation that clinical investigation and treatment should go hand in hand with research enquiry. The phenomena which were the everyday experiences of the daily work of the clinic were also the subject of research studies to increase the understanding of and the ability to respond to these problems. Connell thus laid one key part of the foundations of the Maudsley's addictions treatment and research activities as they exist today. While an objective scrutiny of the research output from the unit during his years might not be particularly striking, it was still vastly more productive than any of the other treatment units in the UK, and thus paved the way for the greater treatment research productivity of later years.

He also had a significant influence upon the careers of a number of trainee psychiatrists who were to become the next generation of drug dependence experts in the UK. For these Maudsley psychiatrists in training, the job on the drug unit was probably received just as another job: but for several of them, the job was to be an experience more profound than they had expected and had a far greater influence on their lives than they had anticipated. An interest and involvement developed imperceptibly until, one day, each was to realise that they were more deeply committed than they had ever intended – in a way which resonates uncannily with the life histories of the individuals who were their patients. For these young psychiatrists, unbeknown to them (and perhaps unbeknown to Connell also), Philip Connell had turned them on to drugs. It is noteworthy that this next generation developed their interest in similar ways to those which Connell had tried to establish himself, with a particular interest in

the smaller detail of drug treatment and how it is delivered, and in the interplay between national policy and individual clinical practice.

The debate around the formation of national drug policy was also one of his great interests and, to the surprise of many, was an area in which he was remarkably influential, being in key positions at critical points in the ever changing development of the British system. He was invited to be the first drugs adviser to the Department of Health (then the Ministry of Health) through the late 1960s and early 1970s – a period which saw the opening of new drug dependence units and was at the heart of the debates about the balance between treatment and control: how much heroin should reasonably be prescribed; what monitoring and policy were necessary; and whether cocaine prescribing could be considered appropriate. He was again appointed to this post during the early to mid-1980s, when the heroin problem again exploded in many cities and communities outside London for the first time. In this capacity he chaired the first 'Orange Guidelines' Working Group which, in 1984, produced the first written guidelines from the Department of Health about how doctors should contribute to the management of drug misusers. From this time until the end of the 1980s he was chairman of the Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Over these years, and under his overall chairmanship, working groups within the Advisory Council produced some of its finest reports, such as the AIDS and Drug Misuse reports which, while they must have made politicians and civil servants of the day distinctly uncomfortable, nevertheless became the unofficial blueprint of UK service developments that were to occur over the subsequent years.

Philip Connell was very active in College affairs; he was secretary of the Child Psychiatry Section from 1962–1966 and Chairman of the Section from 1973–1975. He was elected Vice-President of the College and served between 1979–1981, in 1992 he was elected to the Honorary Fellowship.

When the enthusiastic (sometimes over-enthusiastic) debater was quiet, Philip Connell was undoubtedly at his happiest in his private moments, playing the piano, at which he was excellent, listening to music or in the company of his wife constant companion of the last 25 years, Celia, his friends and his two adult sons.

J. STRANG