

OBITUARIES

HENRI EY

By CH. BRISSET (translated by F. A. Jenner)

Henri Ey died on 6 November 1977. For 40 years he had been the dominant figure of French psychiatry. He came from an exceptional generation and trained at the same time as Pierre Male, Jacques Lacan and Sacha Nacht, who together led psychoanalysis in France. Ey himself, though, was not an analyst, but he tried to integrate psychoanalysis with general psychiatry. In this he was much influenced by Hughlings Jackson. The book he wrote in 1938 with Julien Rouart, which was expanded and republished in 1975 as *Des Idées de Jackson à un Modèle Organodynamique* expressed the views which dominated his life. He thought that psychiatry could not avoid looking at the articulation of diverse levels of psychic life, and their disorganization.

He was a prolific writer, and among his works one must cite his books: *Les Études Psychiatriques* and the *Manuel de Psychiatrie. La Conscience*, his most searching work, appeared in 1963 and has been translated into German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese, and more recently into English. The *Traité des Hallucinations* appeared in 1973 and is a monumental work of more than 1,500 pages.

Henri Ey was not only a theoretician and thinker, he was also a great clinician. He worked on the same wards near Chartres for 40 years. Each week he taught at a seminar in Paris frequented by perhaps half of the French psychiatrists of his time. He was a stimulating organizer of national and international meetings (for example the Conferences of Bonneval and the Franco-German meetings). He was the General Secretary of 'L'Évolution Psychiatrique' and the editor of the review of the same name. He was the founder and the first secretary of the World Psychiatric Association. He was also a militant, one of the principal workers for reforms of the French psychiatric hospitals and for the separation of psychiatry and neurology, which has made the increase in numbers of French psychiatrists possible.

This man, of great intelligence and forcefulness, spent his career with some indifference to honours and titles; he was an unpretentious and good man, affable to all. One can nevertheless say that he has been the man who brought about a veritable renaissance of psychiatry in his country.

W. H. SHELDON*

By RICHARD N. WALKER

Dr William H. Sheldon, Director of the Biological Humanics Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, died there on 16 September 1977. Sheldon is the man who invented somatotyping—a classification of variations in human body structure, to which he related variations in temperament, in physical and mental illness, and in patterns of growth and ageing.

Born in 1898 in Warwick, Rhode Island, Sheldon grew up amid woods and marshes. His work shows the imprint of his country background; of his mother who raised five children and was midwife to a village; of his father, a naturalist, breeder and judge of animals; and of his godfather William James, the psychologist and philosopher. At age 10 he was working for the State ornithologist, reporting on animals of the woods and fields—observing, describing, classifying. At 15 he took pride in his ability to match judges' scorings of livestock on 100-point scales. As an adult he turned his naturalist's eye on human structure and behaviour.

After public school, Sheldon attended Brown University and the University of Colorado. From the

University of Chicago he received his Ph.D. in psychology in 1926, his M.D. in 1933. He taught at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago and Wisconsin. A two-year fellowship in Europe allowed him to study with Jung and to visit Freud and Kretschmer.

In 1938 he moved to Harvard, where he did much of his basic research, with such colleagues as S. S. Stevens, the experimental psychologist, and E. A. Hooton, the physical anthropologist. During World War II he served as lieutenant colonel in the Army Medical Corps. From 1947 until 1959 he was Director of the Constitution Laboratory at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, succeeding Dr G. Draper, a pioneer in constitutional medicine. He has also held research appointments at the University of California, Berkeley, and, since 1951, at the University of Oregon Medical School.

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