

## Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

**ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE McLEAN DOUGLAS, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist to Saxondale Hospital and Nottingham Hospitals**

Alexander, 'Sandy' Douglas died on 14 August 1992 at the age of 75 of hypernephroma after a short illness. Born in Glasgow in 1916, 'a son of the Manse', he was educated in Scotland at Biggar Academy proceeding to St Andrews University where he graduated MB, ChB, in 1940. In 1947 he gained the DPH (Leeds), and in 1949 the DPM of the Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland). He was elected a Foundation Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1972, of which honour he was extremely proud.

He entered psychiatric practice in 1947, first as Assistant Medical Officer, then Registrar in 1948 and Senior Registrar 1949. In 1950 he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist, then in 1954 Deputy Medical Superintendent, all at Saxondale Hospital, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham. On the retirement of the Medical Superintendent in 1964, Sandy introduced the Medical Committee System for medical administration. He became Chairman of the Psychiatric Advisory Committee to the Sheffield Regional Health Authority and served from 1968–74. In time, he was elected Clinical Teacher to the University Hospital Medical School and a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunals.

'Sandy' had a high analytical intellect, a phenomenal memory, along with a humanitarian disposition which was much appreciated by his patients – the poorest of whom were never left without a little practical help. His interest in psychiatry had started with clinical clerkships while at St Andrews, particularly at the Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow where he admired the work of Professor Ferguson Rogers. Later, from Saxondale, he visited Warlingham Park to observe the "open door policies" of T. P. Rees – whom he much admired. Likewise he visited Bristol to see the work Dr Donal Early was doing in industrial therapy, and subsequently, he was responsible for introducing these pioneer methods in Nottingham and Sheffield.

His research, carried out between 1945 and 1951, led to him meeting (Sir) Alexander Fleming and publishing papers on the treatment of typhoid fever, particularly carrier states (then prevalent in mental hospitals) with Chloromycetin and Chleramphemial. He also published a paper, with T. J. N. Bates, on a comparative trial of four mono-amine oxidase

inhibitors in the *Journal of Mental Science* in 1961 and a paper on a Survey of Industrial Therapy in the Sheffield region in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in 1966.

He served in the Royal Air Force Medical Branch from November 1941 to June 1946. After RAF service in the UK he was posted to Burma, disembarking at Singapore just before it fell to the Japanese. He and a few others, who were not prepared to be taken prisoner, endured a punishing three month journey through the jungle pursued by the Japanese before reaching India and safety. The extremes of poverty and suffering he witnessed in India strengthened his life-long Communist beliefs. (He was a member of the Communist Party). A keen family man, he is survived by his wife Winifred, four children (one of whom is a member of the medical profession), and six grandchildren on whom he doted.

E. G. ORAM

**RONALD MAGGS, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Hellingly Hospital, Sussex**



Ronald, "Ronnie" Maggs, was born in Bristol in 1921 and was educated at Bristol Grammar School. We first met in the dissecting room of the Anatomy Department of Bristol University Medical School, where we exchanged the usual irreverent medical student jokes over the body! Because of

the striking difference in our heights it was perhaps inevitable that we should find ourselves cast in buffon type double acts in student pantomimes!

After qualifying MB, ChB in 1944, Ronnie worked in the Casualty Department of Bristol Royal Infirmary before doing his National Service in the RAF Medical Branch. He then returned to Bristol to start his outstanding career in his chosen specialty – psychiatry. At that time, this was still regarded as a surprising choice for an able doctor but what was even more surprising was that it was made also by two other students in the 'class of '44' – the late Amor Ardis and myself.

Ronnie worked in the Glenside/Barrow Hospital Group, first in the field of psychogeriatrics, writing in 1953 his MD thesis on 'Memory in Old Age' before developing his lifelong interest in psychopharmacology and psychoendocrinology. While at Bristol Ronnie was a pioneer in the use of lithium as a prophylactic agent in recurrent affective illnesses and later made important contributions on the subject at national and international conferences. He was a Tutor in Psychiatry at Bristol University.

Sadly, Ronnie's great talents were lost to Bristol in 1954 when he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist at Hellingly Hospital, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, Victoria Hospital, Lewes and the Eastbourne Group of Hospitals. Ronnie widened his clinical interests even further to include alcohol and drug abuse. He continued these interests, after his retirement to Somerset in 1981, at Broadway Lodge and Barley Wood Centre in Avon. He was a member of the Psychotropic Sub-committee of the Committee for the Review of Medicines and became Editor of the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

Ronnie was a Medical Member of the South-West Mental Health Review Tribunal, on which his wisdom, warm personality and gentle, sensitive approach to patients were invaluable assets. He continued to serve until, a few months before his death, increasing physical incapacity made this impossible.

Ronnie was elected a Foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971 and took an active part in its running, serving on Council and many of its committees. He was a Member of Council of the Psychiatric Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. His work for the British Medical Association was recognised by his election to its Fellowship – an honour not lightly bestowed.

Ronnie held honorary appointments with a number of voluntary bodies, including the Pendomer Charitable Trust, the Mental Health Foundation, LINK (Hard of Hearing Association), CRUSE (National Widows Association) and LIBRA for alcohol and drug problems, which he founded.

Ronnie was a workaholic and indefatigable – which was sometimes very wearing for those nearest and dearest to him! – and, outside his professional activities, somehow managed to find the energy to be a churchwarden and Treasurer of the Somerset branch of the International Tree Foundation. He was a keen swimmer and gardener, growing vegetables and sweet peas to exhibition standard.

About two years before his death, Ronnie developed a prostatic tumour, thought initially to be benign, but the development of spinal secondaries proved its malignancy, which Ronnie hid from his colleagues until he could no longer walk. He maintained his characteristic optimism and cheerfulness right to

the end, through repeated radiotherapy and spinal decompression. He had hoped to join other members of the Mental Health Review Tribunal at their annual pre-Christmas lunch in Cullompton on 5 December but sadly died on 30 November 1992.

Colleagues and other friends, who managed to navigate the surrounding floods, attended the Memorial Service held at St Giles Church, Bradford on Tone, on 18 December 1992. The Service included a reading of the following piece by R. L. Stevenson.

"That man is a success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much, who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who leaves the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or rescued soul; who never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty nor failed to express it; who looked for the best in others, and gave the best he had – his memory is a benediction.

– such a man was Ronnie!

Ronnie is survived by his wife, Olive – whom he first met when they were both 16, and whom he married in 1944 – and by their daughter Alicia and sons, Ian and Simon.

ALAN HEATON-WARD

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

ANNAPURNA DE, Consultant Psychiatrist, Furness General Hospital, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria.

ALYS ESTHER PATRICIA DONNAN, 21 Fletcher Street, Hawthorn, Victoria 3123, Australia.

JOHN AUGUSTINE KELLEHER, Honorary Consultant, 40 Belle Vue Court, Belle Vue Gardens, Brighton, Sussex BN2 2AN.

RODERICK EUAN GEORGE MACLEAN, retired, 6 Irilbarra Road, Canterbury, Victoria 3126, Australia.

SHOBANA DINESH MEHTA, 7515 Carlisle Road, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802, USA.

ALEXANDER MITSCHERLICH, Myljusstrasse 20, Frankfurt am Main 6, Germany.

MANOHARA NADARAJAH, Senior House Officer, Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Hitchin SG5 4AA.

CHRISTOPHER OUNSTEAD, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Park Hospital for Children, Headington, Oxford.

HUMPHREY RICHARDSON, Consultant Psychiatrist, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4LP.

MARY PHILOMENA RUSSELL, St Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co Galway, Republic of Ireland.

JOHN STUART MAXWELL WATT, Consultant Psychiatrist, Kings Mill Hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 4JL.