

Obituaries

Joseph Michael Cecil Holden, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Ormskirk and District General Hospital, West Lancashire

Doctor Cecil Holden died suddenly on 30 December 1993, aged 66.

Cecil was born in Liverpool and qualified MRCS, LRCP in 1951 and joined the DPM in 1956. In 1964 Cecil was elected MRCP (Glasgow) and made a Fellow in 1975. He was awarded his MD Licence, State of Virginia, USA, in 1967 and in 1974 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Cecil held numerous clinical, administrative and research posts. He served in the RAMC from 1952 to 1954 and was then appointed Consultant in Psychological Medicine, Liverpool Regional Hospital Board in 1961 and served until 1964. In 1968 he was appointed Clinical Director, Missouri Institute of Psychiatry, University of Missouri, USA, and then Physician Superintendent, St Louis State Hospital, Division of Mental Diseases, Missouri. In 1970 Cecil returned to England and was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist at Whittingham Hospital in Preston, from 1982 to 1984 where he served with distinction as Clinical Tutor in Post Graduate Training.

In 1984 Cecil returned to the States as Senior Associate Medical Director and then as Clinical Director, Community Psychiatric Services, Rochester Psychiatric Centre, New York. Finally, he was elected Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Rochester, New York. This post he held until 1988.

In 1989, Cecil came back to England and served as Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director of Psychiatry at Ormskirk & District General Hospital, until he retired in 1993. During this period, Cecil was responsible for initiating radical and progressive changes to the running of psychiatric services in West Lancashire. He pioneered a forward looking community-orientated service with its emphasis on early diagnosis, energetic treatment at home, and the provision of excellent day hospital care. Cecil was keen on promoting liaison psychiatry and worked closely with colleagues in general medicine,

surgery, and general practice. He forged close links with the social services and was a great supporter of the community psychiatric nursing services.

Cecil was keen on research, particularly in the use of lithium, and he published several research papers on the subject.

Cecil was both a scholar and a gentleman. He was precise in his ways, neat and nattily dressed, even tempered, and always ready to talk to everyone who knocked on his door.

Cecil was a family man. In spite of all his clinical and administrative duties he always had time to spend with his family and he was proud of this fact. He leaves behind his wife Margaret and children Triona, Carmach, Nianh, and Nial.

BERNARD S. WEERAKOON

Francis Walter Graham A.M., formerly Honorary Consultant Medical Psychoanalyst, Prince Henry Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.

With the sudden, unexpected death by stroke of Frank Graham on May 21, 1995, Australia lost one of its most eminent psychoanalysts, a person deserving of the title of "Doyen of Psychoanalysis and Psychological Medicine in Australia".

Frank's achievements are all the more impressive when viewed against the perspective of his lifelong severe physical disability as the result of childhood poliomyelitis affecting all four limbs. He eventually got to his feet with calipers and walking stick and tottered through his schooling a few years older than his peers. Despite the fact that he could never walk more than short distances, he graduated in Medicine at Sydney University aged twenty six in 1940.

He was an indefatigable worker: he arose at 4.30 a.m. every weekday morning, seeing his first patient at 5.30 a.m. – an astonishing feat for a disabled eighty-one-year-old. The last thirty years he spent essentially in a wheelchair. Despite this he was one of the most travelled of Australia's psychoanalysts, travelling interstate and internationally quite regularly. Some accorded him the description