

Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

SIR ROGER ORMROD, Honorary Fellow

Sir Roger Ormrod, PC had the unique distinction of achieving the highest honours in two learned professions, the law and medicine: he was a Lord Justice of Appeal and an FRCP.

Roger Fray Greenwood Ormrod was educated at Shrewsbury and The Queen's College, Oxford, where he read jurisprudence. Pressure from his father, however, resulted in him following in the footsteps of his grandfather and uncle and becoming a doctor. To this end he switched to reading medicine at Oxford where he graduated BM, BCh in 1942. He was elected FRCP Lond. in 1969.

Of the two professions he could have made his life's work, Sir Roger chose the law. His career was interrupted by the Second World War in which he served in the RAMC and saw service in Normandy, North-West Europe and in India. He was demobilised in 1945 with the rank of major.

He returned to his former chambers in Fountain Court and very soon acquired a large divorce practice interspersed with medical negligence cases. He took silk in 1958 and in 1961 was appointed a judge of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division. From 1975, he sat regularly in the division of the Court which heard appeals from the Family Division and Divorce County Courts over which he eventually presided from 1979 until his retirement.

Despite the heavy burden of his judicial work Sir Roger found time to assist in extra-mural activities, mainly with a medical flavour. Thus he was a governor of Barts, and the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals as well as Chairman of the Institute of Psychiatry.

In 1938 he married Anne Lush, a magistrate and marriage guidance counsellor.

BARRY WYNDHAM RICHARDS, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Physician Superintendent, St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham

Barry Richards qualified from St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School in 1939. The field of mental handicap soon attracted his attention after he joined the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in 1947. He served on the Executive Committee for Mental Deficiency. He became Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Physician Superintendent at St Lawrence's Hospital in the early 1950s. A

consultancy to the London Borough of Croydon and Honorary Lecturer in Psychological Medicine at King's College Hospital, London, followed.

As the occasion demanded, he was an excellent administrator, but preferred, instead, to melt into the background with his precious research work, which to him was a form of creative art. Easily lost in books, articles and reverie, he became known affectionately, but with some truth, as the "absent minded professor".

Down's syndrome, cytogenetics, dermatoglyphics, biochemical disorders and family trees were the focus of most of his work. They were subjects about which he wrote numerous articles. Many years of devotion to the editorship of *The Journal of Mental Deficiency Research* gave him much pleasure. His work background was depicted in a book he edited *Mental Subnormality, Modern Trends in Research, 1970*. Penrose, in a preface to this book, commented on a survey of demographic processes in a study by Richards and said "it could with advantage be more widely recognised by administrators, who often tend to ignore such data in forming policy decisions". His research work was rewarded when he became the first recipient of the Burden Research Medal and Prize in 1970. In 1972 he delivered the Blake Marsh Lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine, his topic being 'Mongols and their Mothers'.

The Barry Richards library at St Lawrence's Hospital was started by him. It grew into a richly subscribed collection of specialist books and journals and was constantly consulted by those working in the field. Barry was a European, belonging to the Anglo-German Society and developing close links with the University of Warsaw. His net spread to the New World, where he spent a year as Visiting Professor in Mental Deficiency in Toronto. In terms of scholarship he was a most unusual person to find working in a long-stay hospital. However, his work certainly advanced knowledge in helping to understand, treat and prevent mental handicap. His endeavours and original thoughts were a complement to the Penrose, Shapiro, Heaton-Ward era.

Barry was a quiet, dignified, private and contemplative man. Appearing rather remote and seemingly not sentimental was a contradiction of opinion when one got to know him. He was very proud of his Welsh ancestry, his family and links with Barry – his home town, after which he was named. His retirement hobby was a comprehensive study of his own

roots and family tree. It was to Barry that he returned to end his days peacefully, in his chair, contemplating his daily paper. He died at the age of 77.

He is survived by his wife, Molly, and a son and daughter.

P. E. SYLVESTER

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Forthcoming events

The World Congress of World Federation for Mental Health will take place in Chiba, Japan from 23–27 August 1993. Further information: Diftours, 20 rue des Petits Champs, 75002 Paris, France (telephone 010 33 40 20 07 83; fax 010 33 42 96 15 34).

The XVth Congress of the International Association of Gerontology will take place in Budapest, Hungary, from 4–9 July 1993. Further information: VIP International Conference Services, 42 North Audley Street, London W1A 4PY (telephone 071 355 4105; Fax 071 499 4221).

The Third Annual Conference for The Promotion of Mental Health will take place at the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, from 6–8 September 1993. Closing date for submissions: 1 April 1993. Further information and requests for official abstract submission forms: Peter Davies, Conference Organiser, Department of Health Care Marketing, St George's Hospital, Stafford ST16 3AG (telephone 0785 57888; fax 0785 58969).

The next meeting of the **European Association of Dermatology and Psychiatry** will be held in Bordeaux, France on 20–22 October 1993. Further information: Dr Michael Musalek, Secretary, EADP, Psychiatric University Clinic, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

The Yorkshire Regional Psychiatric Association will hold a symposium on **Update on Child Sexual Abuse in the Clinical Sciences Building**, St James's University Hospital, Leeds on 16 March 1993, starting at 2.00 p.m. further information and application forms: Dr Douglas Spencer, Hon. Secretary, YRPA, Meanwood Park Hospital, Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QB (telephone 0532 758721)

The First European Congress on Disorders of Personality: Treatment Strategies, Assessment, Theory will be held from 15–17 June 1994 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Further information: Congress P.D., Mrs M. Majoor, P.O. Box 9111, 6500 HN Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

The International Congress on the Dually Diagnosed (Mental retardation/mental illness) will be held at the Lafayette Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, USA from 29 April–1 May 1993. Further information: NADD, 110 Prince Street, Kingston, N.Y. 12401, USA (telephone and fax: 914 331 4336).

A SANDS (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society) conference **Reducing the Incidence of Stillbirth: can it be done?** will be held on 9 March 1993 at the Royal Society of Medicine, London. Further information: Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE (telephone 071 637 7756–24 hours).

A symposium on **Medical Concerns in People with Severe Learning Difficulties and The Halliday Lecture** will be held at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on 12 March 1993. Further information: The Education Secretary, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 232–242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ.

An international conference **Schizophrenia: new perspectives on development and treatment** will be held from 7–10 February 1994 in Oslo. Further information: Conference Secretariat, Child Psychiatric Clinic, University of Oslo, PO Box 59, Vinderen, 0319 Oslo, Norway.

A guest lecture **Myelin of CNS: molecular biology of its normal disease structure and function** will be given by Professor Wilhelm Stoffel (University of Cologne) at 5 p.m. on 20 May 1993 at The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG. All those interested are invited to attend—admission free, without ticket.

The Fourth International Symposium of the International Society for Brain Electromagnetic Topography will be held at the International Conference Center, Havana from 20–30 July 1993. Further information: Dr Niabaldo Hernandez, PO Box 6880, Ciudad Habana, Cuba (telephone 53 7 21 7442 and 7390; fax 53 7 336321; E-Mail: web.apc.org!cenia!neurox!isbet93).