Thomas Ferguson Rodger, Emeritus Professor of Psychological Medicine in the University of Glasgow, died on 1 June 1978 at the age of 70. A native of Glasgow and a graduate of its university, Ferguson Rodger’s early interest in psychiatry was encouraged by Sir David Henderson in Glasgow and Edinburgh and by Adolf Meyer in Baltimore.

He was deputy superintendent of the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital from 1934 until 1940, when he entered the RAMC. He had a distinguished service career, attaining the rank of Brigadier and becoming consultant in psychiatry in South East Asia Command and India. He helped to pioneer techniques of personnel selection and to establish psychiatry as an important branch of military medicine.

After the war he was for a time a Commissioner of the General Board of Control for Scotland and in 1949 he was appointed to the new Chair of Psychological Medicine at Glasgow University. He rapidly...

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Contents

College News:
- Obituary: Thomas Ferguson Rodger 169
- College Announcements 170
- Joint Meeting with the Clinical Genetics Society 170
- Litigation in Psychiatry; by Dr J. Leahy Taylor 171
- The Role of a Consultant Psychiatrist in a Residential Caring Establishment: a personal view; by D. C. Wallbridge 173
- A Comparison of Psychiatric Examinations in the United States and Canada; by Joseph Berger 175
- How to Stop Worrying about Multiple-Choice Questions; by Michael A. Simpson 177
- Roads to Safety Conference; by Duncan Raistrick 180
- Transcultural Aspects of Psychiatric Training; by John L. Cox 181
- The Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis: the Judith Baskin Offer Prize 181
- Correspondence 182
- The BMA Mental Health Group 183
- Forthcoming Events 183

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established the place of his department in the medical school and developed his unit at the Southern General Hospital where he exerted a strong influence on the development of general hospital based psychiatry.

His earlier training in Meyerian principles of psychobiology led him to develop an eclectic approach to patient care. He formed close links with other medical specialists and was quick to see the contribution which could be made by all types of professional staff. His students and juniors were well trained in both psychotherapeutic and physical approaches to treatment. He was co-author of a successful textbook on *Psychology in Relation to Medicine*.

Although a shy man he had a wide circle of friends from many walks of life, and his range of interest in Scottish politics, literature and the arts made him a much admired companion, counsellor and host. He was particularly at ease with young people, whose enthusiasm he shared and respected.

During his tenure of the Chair he held many appointments nationally and internationally. He travelled widely for WHO as a member of the Expert Committee on Mental Health. He became honorary consulting psychiatrist to the Army in Scotland and his opinion on the place of psychiatry in the armed forces was sought regularly. He played a major part in the growth and development of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association both in Scotland, where he was Chairman of the Scottish Division in 1962 and nationally, becoming President in 1965. Thereafter he was closely concerned in the creation of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and helped to shape its educational policies. He was dedicated to involving younger psychiatrists in its affairs. When the College received its Royal Charter in 1971 he was made an Honorary Fellow.

His later years were marred by poor health which he bore with uncomplaining courage. A serious illness in 1973 caused him to retire at the beginning of his last year in office, and his continuing ill health in the following years was a source of deep distress to his family and his many friends. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter who is a consultant physician.

GERALD TIMBURY