

Obituary

FRANCIS J. BRACELAND, Scholar in Residence, St Joseph's College, 1687 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

Francis J. Braceland, MD, who died on 27 March 1985, was the 83rd President of the American Psychiatric Association and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists since 1969. There were other national and international societies, scientific, medical and psychiatric, whose honorary memberships attest his contributions as a capable clinician, an eminent administrator, a respected teacher, a compassionate advocate of the mentally ill, a gifted humorous speaker, and above all else, a gentle and gracious man.

Francis Braceland's life and professional career were a 20th century version of the lives and activities of his psychiatric forebears—the founders of the American Psychiatric Association in 1844. He, like they, received his initial psychiatric experience in one of the oldest private psychiatric hospitals in the United States—the Pennsylvania Hospital.

This experience was polished by the opportunity afforded him to participate in a European *wanderjahr* when he received one of the first travelling psychiatric fellowships awarded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Over the next 30 years after his return, he occupied nine professional chairs. On each of these occasions, his colleagues were provided with Braceland's unique contributions. His departure from Philadelphia's established academe was motivated by his response to the expressed need of other newly established psychiatric departments in the mid-West for someone with his expertise.

Frank Braceland's naval career spanned the years from World War I to active duty medical assignments throughout the years of World War II. In recognition of his meritorious service to the Navy, he was not only officially decorated but also rose from the rank of Lt. Commander to the flag status of Rear Admiral. Braceland's years of duty as Chief of the Neuropsychiatric Branch of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery elevated its status throughout the Department of the Navy. Among other of his achievements was the incorporation of psychological and psychiatric screening as an integral component of the recruit selection and assignment process. Nevertheless, he saw as the climax of his military career his assignment to the Nuremberg war trials as a psychiatric consultant to Supreme Court Justice Jackson's staff as an examiner of the Nazi war criminals.

There were two activities which he prized as stellar achievements. Both attested to his felicitous synthesis of teaching with administration. Almost single handedly during his thirteen years of service as Secretary and President of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, he transformed what had been an arbitrary and capricious ordeal into a respected, eminently fair

academic exercise for the certification of hundreds of psychiatrists and neurologists. A companion achievement is seen in the creative scholarly accomplishments of the *American Journal of Psychiatry* during his thirteen years of editorship.

HPR

GORDON STEWART PRINCE, Consultant Psychiatrist, Charter Clinic, London SW3.

Gordon Stewart Prince, Consultant in Child and Family Psychiatry at King's College Hospital for 19 years before he retired in 1981, died on 20 August 1985 at the age of 66.

Born in Scotland and educated there and in Ireland, he qualified at Trinity College, Dublin. He joined the RAMC in 1943 during which time he met Wendy, a QA whom he married in India. In 41BGH he was graded specialist in psychiatry and reached the rank of Major. After demobilisation in 1948 he studied at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals where in a climate of intellectual rigour he was prominent in a coterie of registrars who sought rapprochement between general psychiatry and analytical psychotherapy. He completed his training as a psychiatrist and Jungian psychotherapist and was appointed Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Woodberry Down ILEA Clinic, where he stayed for some ten years before his appointment to King's.

Gordon was a vivacious and effective teacher, influential on the Applied Social Studies course at LSE as well as with medical postgraduates and undergraduates. He served as Chairman of the Society for Analytical Psychology and as President of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was widely known for his skill and sensitivity in understanding troubled teenagers, and it was for this group that he staffed a service at King's.

Gordon knew the darker side of life through a miserable and recurrent illness with which he struggled courageously and successfully. A generous-spirited man, his liveliness and wit cast their memorable spell over many occasions, ranging from wet Saturday afternoons on the Bethlem cricket field to clinical conferences and lecture rooms all over the place.

He is survived by his wife, Wendy, two children, and four grandchildren.

RHC, RFH & LW

JOHN MCGHIE, formerly Director of Army Psychiatry and Consultant Psychiatrist to the Army.

Members of the College will be very sad to learn that Major General John McGhie died suddenly and peacefully at his home in Lenham, Kent on 12 September 1985.

John McGhie was born in 1914 at Larkall, Lanark and educated at the Hamilton Academy. He graduated in Medicine at Glasgow University in 1936. He was commissioned in the RAMC in 1937. He was posted to India in 1938 and spent some time working as a MO in BMH Rawalpindi. Subsequently he served in the Burma Campaign from 1942 to 1945, commanding 47 Field

Ambulance and 13 IMFTU. After his return to the UK he spent a short period commanding a field ambulance in the Channel Islands before commencing post-graduate training in psychiatry. In 1947 he obtained his DPM and on completion of his training he served as Command Psychiatrist in UK Commands and subsequently from 1949 to 1952 as Adviser in Psychiatry to the Far East Land Forces. He spent the next nine years working in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, initially as O/C Psychiatric Division and subsequently for a period of six years as Officer Commanding the Hospital. He joined the staff of the Royal Army Medical College as Director of Army Psychiatry in 1961, an appointment he held until 1967. From 1967 to 1970 he served as Deputy Director Medical Services in Malaya and Western Command. Finally in July 1970, he returned to the Royal Army Medical College and reassumed the appointment of Director of Army Psychiatry and Consultant Psychiatrist to the Army in the rank of Major General. He served in this high office until his retirement from the Army at age 62 in 1976.

His 40 years service in the Army thus embraced field, administrative, and clinical duties and because of his qualities of leadership, organisation, and professional skill, he achieved outstanding success in each field. He was a man of great integrity who was forthright and singleminded but beneath this exterior, he was a quiet person, with a keen sense of humour who was kind, generous, and considerate in his dealings with his fellow man.

After retiring from the Army, he commenced a second career as Consultant Psychiatrist to the GLC and the ILEA and at the same time maintained his links with the Army by undertaking the duties of President of the Ministry of Defence Army Medical Board. He finally completely retired just past his 70th birthday earlier this year.

In 1943 he was mentioned in Dispatches, awarded the Order of St John in 1962, made Queen's Honorary Physician in 1971 and awarded the CB in 1976. He proceeded to the MD in 1961 and was elected FRC Psych in 1972. Amongst his many publications were *A Survey of Service Psychiatry in the Far East*, *Endocrine Investigations of the Psychiatric Casualty in the Army* and *Anxiety State in the Army associated with Overacting Thyroid*.

His interests included bridge, gardening and golf. His family were very precious to him. He leaves his wife Hilda, two sons, John, a solicitor, and Robert, a Major in the Royal Anglians, and five grandchildren. As a Fellow of another Royal College, I extend my deep sympathy to your College on the loss of one of its very distinguished and honourable Fellows.

APD

DESMOND CURRAN, CBE, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of London.

Desmond Curran died on 26 September 1985 in his 82nd year. He was Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of London, having retired from his post at St

George's Hospital Medical School in 1967. The affection and respect that I had for him were sentiments he inspired probably in everyone who knew him. The immediate obituary notices in the national press did absolute justice to his dignity and integrity. A blessedly modest and shy man without outward defensiveness, he invited such balanced comments.

Born in Devon, raised near St Andrews, educated at Wellington and Trinity College, Cambridge, he undertook his undergraduate clinical studies at St George's Hospital Medical School in the 1920s. He and Eliot Slater were fellow students. Entering psychiatry he became House Physician at the old Bethlem Hospital in Lambeth during 1928–1929. There he rapidly established a long remembered reputation for the many hours he spent with patients, attempting to understand and help them. Next he spent a period in neurology at Maida Vale Hospital and first met Dr Macdonald Critchley, a relationship that was subsequently to have some national importance.

After a spell at Johns Hopkins University Medical School with Adolf Meyer, and which he came to regard as especially formative, he returned as Assistant Medical Officer to the Maudsley Hospital. Shortly afterwards he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist to St George's and by the age of 34 had been elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

With the coming of the war it was Macdonald Critchley who, against resistance it is said, secured his appointment as the first Consultant Psychiatrist to the Navy. He rapidly built up a specialist service on a worldwide basis, becoming the youngest Surgeon Captain in the Royal Navy. During this period he sought out and attracted to his team many psychiatrists destined for eminence after the war. Everyone of them to whom I have spoken about that period recalls with admiration and fondness the high standards he set and the personal support he always provided.

On returning to St George's he set about consolidating and developing the psychiatric services there. By the late 1940s the present female ward at Atkinson Morley's Hospital had been opened and a few years later the unit was increased to its present size of 43 beds by the addition of a male ward. Once again he sought out and attracted colleagues around him of the highest calibre. His pre-war friendship with Erich Guttman had nurtured the production of a textbook with them as co-authors. In the postwar years his co-authors became firstly Maurice Partridge and more recently Peter Storey. In the first 20 postwar years the weekly psychiatric case demonstrations at Hyde Park Corner run by him, Sir Paul Mallinson and 'Bird' Partridge, became nationally and internationally famous and they provided the basis for systematic teaching to countless postgraduate students seeking the DPM. In 1961 he became the first Professor of Psychiatry at St George's.

His clinical skills were legendary. His exceptional knowledge of human nature and of clinical psychiatry shone through his teaching. He came to be regarded as an infallible prognostician. The textbook has always reflected