

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

DONALD JAMES CRANSTON DAWSON, formerly Medical Superintendent and Consultant Psychiatrist, Gransha Hospital, Londonderry, N. Ireland

Dr Dawson, a foundation fellow of the College, died on 23 April 1990 at the age of 84.

Dawson was educated at the Methodist College and studied medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating MB, ChB, BAO in 1930. He proceeded to the MD in 1937 and took the DPM (RCPSI) in 1949.

He had a varied career, and in his early years worked as a general practitioner and as an honorary anaesthetist at several hospitals in Belfast. During the war he served in the RAMC in England and North Africa. However, having decided on a career in psychiatry he spent 21 years as medical superintendent of Gransha Hospital in Londonderry. There he supervised the introduction of the first new psychiatric hospital to be built in the United Kingdom after the war and was wholly responsible for its clinical development.

Early in his career there he recognised the importance of the general practitioner and of the need for partnership at every stage of treatment. Education was one of his top priorities, and he began lectures for staff and for local clergy of all denominations. To this day his lecture notes are used by nurses in preference to their textbooks. He was always ahead of his time, and many of his ideas, once considered unconventional, are now well established modes of psychiatric treatment. His humour, compassion, and deep spiritual faith made him the cornerstone of the happy hospital community.

His work was his life, and on retirement he was made a life governor of Gransha and Altnagelvin

Hospitals, chairman of Beaconsfield Hospital, a member of the education and research committee and the health committee of Northern Ireland Hospital Authority, and a lecturer at Queen's University and at two theological colleges.

He was the last chairman of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland.

Donald Dawson served God and his profession to the full, having high ethical and clinical standards. He is survived by his wife, Hazel; three daughters, Dorothy, Rosemary and Anne; and two grandchildren.

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ROBERT HANNA FELIX, corresponding fellow and formerly Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry and Emeritus Dean, School of Medicine, St Louis University, USA

Robert Felix was born in Downs, Kansas, on 29 May 1904. He took his BA degree at the University of Colorado in 1926 and then graduated MD from Johns Hopkins University in 1930. In the course of his distinguished career honorary degrees were showered on him which included the DSc from the University of Colorado and the LLD from the University of Chattanooga.

He held a variety of psychiatric posts culminating in his election to the Chair of Psychiatry and Dean of the School of Medicine at St Louis University, Kansas.

He was appointed a corresponding fellow of the College in 1971.