

Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE McLEAN DOUGLAS, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist to Saxondale Hospital and Nottingham Hospitals

Alexander, 'Sandy' Douglas died on 14 August 1992 at the age of 75 of hypernephroma after a short illness. Born in Glasgow in 1916, 'a son of the Manse', he was educated in Scotland at Biggar Academy proceeding to St Andrews University where he graduated MB, ChB, in 1940. In 1947 he gained the DPH (Leeds), and in 1949 the DPM of the Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland). He was elected a Foundation Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1972, of which honour he was extremely proud.

He entered psychiatric practice in 1947, first as Assistant Medical Officer, then Registrar in 1948 and Senior Registrar 1949. In 1950 he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist, then in 1954 Deputy Medical Superintendent, all at Saxondale Hospital, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham. On the retirement of the Medical Superintendent in 1964, Sandy introduced the Medical Committee System for medical administration. He became Chairman of the Psychiatric Advisory Committee to the Sheffield Regional Health Authority and served from 1968–74. In time, he was elected Clinical Teacher to the University Hospital Medical School and a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunals.

'Sandy' had a high analytical intellect, a phenomenal memory, along with a humanitarian disposition which was much appreciated by his patients – the poorest of whom were never left without a little practical help. His interest in psychiatry had started with clinical clerkships while at St Andrews, particularly at the Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow where he admired the work of Professor Ferguson Rogers. Later, from Saxondale, he visited Warlingham Park to observe the "open door policies" of T. P. Rees – whom he much admired. Likewise he visited Bristol to see the work Dr Donal Early was doing in industrial therapy, and subsequently, he was responsible for introducing these pioneer methods in Nottingham and Sheffield.

His research, carried out between 1945 and 1951, led to him meeting (Sir) Alexander Fleming and publishing papers on the treatment of typhoid fever, particularly carrier states (then prevalent in mental hospitals) with Chloromycetin and Chleramphemial. He also published a paper, with T. J. N. Bates, on a comparative trial of four mono-amine oxidase

inhibitors in the *Journal of Mental Science* in 1961 and a paper on a Survey of Industrial Therapy in the Sheffield region in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in 1966.

He served in the Royal Air Force Medical Branch from November 1941 to June 1946. After RAF service in the UK he was posted to Burma, disembarking at Singapore just before it fell to the Japanese. He and a few others, who were not prepared to be taken prisoner, endured a punishing three month journey through the jungle pursued by the Japanese before reaching India and safety. The extremes of poverty and suffering he witnessed in India strengthened his life-long Communist beliefs. (He was a member of the Communist Party). A keen family man, he is survived by his wife Winifred, four children (one of whom is a member of the medical profession), and six grandchildren on whom he doted.

E. G. ORAM

RONALD MAGGS, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Hellingly Hospital, Sussex



Ronald, "Ronnie" Maggs, was born in Bristol in 1921 and was educated at Bristol Grammar School. We first met in the dissecting room of the Anatomy Department of Bristol University Medical School, where we exchanged the usual irreverent medical student jokes over the body! Because of

the striking difference in our heights it was perhaps inevitable that we should find ourselves cast in buffon type double acts in student pantomimes!

After qualifying MB, ChB in 1944, Ronnie worked in the Casualty Department of Bristol Royal Infirmary before doing his National Service in the RAF Medical Branch. He then returned to Bristol to start his outstanding career in his chosen specialty – psychiatry. At that time, this was still regarded as a surprising choice for an able doctor but what was even more surprising was that it was made also by two other students in the 'class of '44' – the late Amor Ardis and myself.