

## Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

**ROBERT FREELAND BARBOUR, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist to Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children and United Bristol Hospitals, and Senior Consultant to Bristol Child and Family Guidance Service**



Robert (Bob) Barbour, who died suddenly at his home on 3 December 1989, was born on 27 March 1904. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Gresham's School and St John's College, Cambridge. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University where he graduated MB, ChB in 1929. He took both the London and Edinburgh MRCP in

1935 and proceeded to the Fellowship of the former in 1946 and the latter in 1940. Having decided on a career in psychiatry, he studied in Boston and Johns Hopkins in the USA and then returned to the Maudsley where he trained in analytic psychotherapy in child guidance. He took the DPM in 1932 and was made a Foundation Fellow of the College in 1971.

In 1936 he was appointed Director of the Child Guidance Clinic in Bristol at a time when child guidance and child psychiatry were in their infancy, and much foresight and energy were required both to establish an effective service and plan their future development.

His plans were interrupted by the outbreak of war, when he was invited to become one of the original seven specialists in psychological medicine to the Army. His distinguished wartime career included service as Specialist with the rank of Brigadier, to the Middle East Forces, and on his return to England as adviser in psychiatry to the 45th Division, which included working with returning prisoners of war.

On his return to Bristol in 1946, he was able to devote all his enthusiasm and enormous energy to developing a highly regarded child guidance service, with an early emphasis on the concept of multi-professional team work, a method which only in recent times has been extended to other fields of medicine. Appointment to the staff of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children allowed him the

opportunity to develop an out-patient department of child psychiatry, one of the first in this country to have, at his request, the appointment of a Psychiatric Social Worker. This appointment, and his foresight, allowed the development of cooperative working between the hospital and child guidance departments, avoiding the situation which arose in many parts of the country where child guidance developed as a local authority service often isolated from general medicine. He encouraged interest in the psychiatric aspects of juvenile delinquency and developed a much appreciated advisory service to the juvenile courts, and as a manager was much involved with the local approved schools and classifying school.

He was an enthusiast for his subject and his appointment as honorary lecturer to the department of physiology of the University of Bristol, and subsequently to the department of mental health allowed him to influence the teaching of medical students early in their training. He took an active part in the affairs of the College and from 1960–63 was chairman of the South Western Division.

Away from his work he showed his pride in his Scottish ancestry, particularly in his love for Scottish dance societies at whose gatherings, tall and handsome in his kilt, he was a popular and skilled performer. He loved also to explore the mountains of the highlands and kept this up until his last years. His enthusiasm never waned and he was learning craft skills up to the time of his death. He is survived by his wife Pat, his son Donald and daughters Joan and Fiona.

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**MICHAEL FRANK DIXON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Roundway Hospital, Devizes**

Michael Dixon, who died on 25 February 1990, was born in Calcutta in 1921 where his father held a post as an accountant. At the age of 9 he fell severely ill with tuberculosis and was given the last Rites. He survived. He completed his schooling at Ampleforth before entering Oxford to study Philosophy and Classics. His time there was interrupted by a period of army service before he obtained his BA. He then decided to study medicine which he did at St George's Hospital Medical School where he met his wife, Norah. On qualifying he took a post in chest diseases at St Albans' Hospital before entering psychiatry, a course that he had already decided upon