

## Obituary

**WILLIAM BOYD, formerly Physician Superintendent, Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, Fife, Scotland.**

Dr William Boyd, formerly Physician Superintendent, Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, Fife, died in April 1984.

William Boyd was born on 4 August 1898, at Galashiels. After attending George Watson's College in Edinburgh, his medical studies were interrupted by the First World War, and he saw active service as a Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Artillery. After the war he resumed his studies and graduated MB, ChB from the University of Edinburgh in 1923. He took the DPH in 1925, the Diploma in Psychiatry in 1926, became a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1952 and a Foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971.

He became Senior Assistant Medical Officer at Stratheden Hospital, then Fife and Kinross District Asylum, in 1924 and became Physician Superintendent in 1927. He served as a member of the South-East Scotland Regional Hospital Board, and became Chairman of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

In 1953 he became Psychiatric Adviser to the Scottish Prison Service and for the next 15 years, at a time when forensic psychiatry was still in an embryonic stage, he regularly visited prisons throughout Scotland and his advice was sought on a wide variety of medico-legal problems. His contribution to psychiatry and to the Scottish Prison Service was recognized by the award of the OBE in 1971.

He was an enthusiastic caravanner, taking an active part in promoting the activities of the Caravan Club from its earliest days, and it was under his Chairmanship that it became a national body.

The death of his wife in 1973 came as a great blow to him for they had enjoyed a particularly close and harmonious marriage. Nevertheless, he continued to lead an active and healthy life until a few weeks before his death. His son, Bill, until recently Physician Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, is now a Mental Welfare Commissioner, Chairman of the Scottish Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and one of Scotland's best known psychiatrists.

Dr Boyd is still well remembered in Fife by an older generation of patients and staff. He took a very active part in promoting sport and recreation and a wide variety of occupational activities before these had become generally fashionable. He was instrumental in developing the Stratheden Admission Block—which eventually gave the hospital its name—in 1938, as well as taking a lead in planning the purpose-built geriatric wards that came into being in 1955. He took a particular interest in the daily lives of the long-stay patients in Stratheden and took some pride in knowing the name, and often a great deal of the background, of every patient in the hospital. A man of impressive build and commanding presence, he is remembered as always friendly and approachable, always courteous and helpful.

Dr Boyd's years in Fife are often recalled with warmth and affection by the older members of nursing staff (many now

retired), and he also receives a regular tribute and what can now be regarded as a fitting epitaph, from an elderly patient whom I still see from time to time in Kirkcaldy. Invariably at some point her eyes kindle in reflective nostalgia and she murmurs: 'Ah, Dr Boyd—now *there* was a gentleman.'

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**LESLIE COLIN COOK, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Bexley Hospital, Kent.**

Dr Leslie Cook, who died in Zimbabwe on Christmas Day, 1984, was well known to an earlier generation of psychiatrists. He was a pioneer in this country of convulsion therapy with cardiazol, a treatment originated by Dr L. J. Meduna in Budapest in 1934. At the request of the then London County Council's mental health committee, he visited Budapest in 1937 to study this new treatment, and he himself, while in Hungary, gave 40–50 injections under Meduna's supervision. His report on his visit was never published, although news of his favourable opinion spread rapidly. He took part in the subsequent development of convulsion therapy: the less alarming electrically provoked fit, later modified by a muscle relaxant and a short-acting anaesthetic, both of which improvements he was at first reluctant to adopt.

He was enthusiastic about trying other forms of physical treatment as they were successively introduced: continuous narcosis, for instance, and, following Meduna again, abreaction with carbon dioxide. With two colleagues he published a paper in the *Lancet* on chlorpromazine as early as 1955.

Leslie was as old as the century and was one of the dwindling band of doctors who served in the 1914–18 war. He was at Clifton College, then at Caius College, Cambridge, and completed his medical training at St Thomas's. Improbably, in the light of his later interests, his MD thesis tackled the subject of microcephaly.

In 1939 he became only the third superintendent of Bexley Hospital, where he was already on the staff. Altogether he worked there for about a quarter of a century, and in his last year (1958) became president of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, the College's forerunner. His presidential address, like many such, was mainly retrospective, but towards the end of it he allowed himself a prophecy: 'It should be possible with further knowledge to prevent the development of the psychotic stage [of schizophrenia] . . . if this comes to pass the mental hospital may eventually consist of a small early treatment centre, an even smaller department for intractable psychosis and, I am afraid, a much larger sector employed in caring for senile and other organic states.'

His interests were in clinical psychiatry and in research, giving much practical help to the Mental Health Foundation. He welcomed the shift towards out-patient treatment, and he himself was invited to join the staff at Guy's. His teaching was old style, as elsewhere at that time, consisting largely of a showing-off of some flamboyant in-patients to groups of medical students. Of formal administration he managed with as little as possible and nobody seemed to suffer. He inspired

high morale, was much loved—almost revered—by the staff, who also appreciated his enthusiastic encouragement for their sporting events (in which he often joined). Perhaps the respect he won was a response to his hard work. Certainly some part of it can be attributed to his determination to continue clinical work, which some other superintendents willingly abandoned.

Partly because of ill-health, he retired early from Bexley to live for the next quarter of a century in Suffolk. There he resumed some psychiatric practice with sessions at Severalls Hospital and clinical work at another local hospital. He continued too with his many and varied voluntary interests. In his beautiful mill, where the Stour could be heard rushing under the floor of the main room, he and his wife Barbara, who died three months before him, kept up the hospitality so many people enjoyed, and will remember them for, during their years at Bexley. ARN

**JOHN DENHAM, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1.**

Dr John Denham, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist at The London Hospital and Medical Director of St Clement's Hospital, died following an accident on 17 February 1985, aged 68.

John Denham, formerly Hans Duschinsky, was born in Vienna and was in the final year of his medical studies there when he fled to England in 1939, arriving just before the war. He joined the army and served in the RAMC, first in West Africa and later in Burma, and reached the rank of Sergeant working mainly in pathology laboratories.

After the war he continued his studies at the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff, qualifying in 1949. He gained the DPM (Lond.) in 1951, the MD (Lond.) in 1953 and was elected a Foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971. He entered psychiatry soon after qualifying and held junior posts at Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield; King's College Hospital; the Maudsley Hospital and Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, before being appointed Consultant Psychiatrist to Long Grove Hospital, Epsom, in 1958. In that capacity he was responsible for clinics at Hackney Hospital and at St Clement's Hospital, Bow, of which he became the Medical Director in 1963. Subsequently the psychiatric services at St Clement's were amalgamated with those at The London Hospital (Whitechapel), to which he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist.

Dr Denham was one of that group of refugees from Nazi persecution who made a major contribution to psychiatry in this country. I first met him when he was in sergeant's uniform and working for his second MB in the Central Library at Cardiff. To his fellow students, much less mature, he seemed enormously erudite. He had been taught by Wagner-Jauregg and had come under the influence of Freud, and it was said

that he had read all Freud's works. He certainly, even then, seemed to know a great deal about psychiatry, a subject that was so alien to the rest of us.

Although his early interests were in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy, later in his career his foremost interest became the rehabilitation of the psychiatric patient, and at Long Grove he established an Industrial Rehabilitation Unit. In 1960 he became a Foundation Member of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, an organization in which he took great pride and in which he was active, particularly in the East End, until his death. Long before the terms 'community care' and 'crisis intervention' became commonplace, it was frequently his practice to visit patients at home as a means of preventing their admission to hospital by dealing with their problems in the settings in which they lived. As a complement to his interest in rehabilitation was an interest in the psychotropic drugs which made rehabilitation possible. He had a major interest in drug addiction and alcohol abuse, and he set up the Unit for Drug Addiction at St Clement's. He had a special interest in forensic psychiatry and was in great demand as an expert witness in that field. Besides his papers on psychotropic drugs, his numerous publications include works on rehabilitation and community care.

When I arrived at The London Hospital in 1962, John was already building up the psychiatric services in the East End. He was an excellent clinician and had great personal charm. He was dedicated to his patients and was greatly loved by them. He was an exceedingly hard worker, often remaining at the hospital until late in the evening and, as one of his friends said at the funeral: 'He made the rest of us feel like part-timers.' He was determined to build a good service in the interests of his patients and was intolerant of delays and opposition, so that although not always popular, he usually achieved what he set out to do. It is no exaggeration to say that he was responsible for laying the foundations for and developing the community psychiatric services in the East End of London, and they are a fitting memorial to his efforts. SIC

**The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

KATHERINE HALDANE STOBIE BEGG, 2a Ledcameroch Crescent, Bearsden, Glasgow, Scotland.

WILLIAM MARSDEN FORD ROBERTSON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Long Grove Hospital, Epsom.

JOHN HARCOURT HURT, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, 16 Jinka Street, Hawker, Victoria 2614, Australia.

RONALD ERIC JENKINS, retired, formerly Regional Director, Victoria Union Hospital, Saskatchewan, Canada.

ROBERT DENIS NEWTON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, 25 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3.

**'JCHPT Handbook'**

A new edition of the *JCHPT Handbook* is being published in July 1985. This will cover the changes in training requirements agreed since 1983 concerning special interest, special responsibility and joint training, training in old age psychiatry,

overseas and research training.

Copies will be available from the JCHPT Office on receipt of a stamped (46p), A4 sized self-addressed envelope.