

# Obituary

**PORTIA GRENFELL HOLMAN, retired, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London NW1.**

Dr Portia Holman, a foundation Fellow of the College, died suddenly on 16 May 1983 at the age of 79.

Dr Holman, an Australian by birth, was educated at the Women's College, Sydney, but in 1923 she went up to Newnham, Cambridge, a college to which, in various capacities, she gave unstinted service for the rest of her days. At Newnham she first read economics, a subject in which she lectured and did research at St Andrew's University between 1927 and 1933.

It seems probable that the psychosocial problems she encountered in industry demanded a fuller explanation, and to this end she began a second career in medicine with psychiatry as her ultimate objective. Her career in medicine was a distinguished one: she qualified MB, BChir, Cambridge in 1933 and proceeded to the MD in 1950. She gained the MRCP London in 1944 and was elected FRCP in 1961.

Dr Holman will always be identified as a pioneer in the field of Child Guidance with a special interest in the education of maladjusted children. Nearly 40 years ago, in 1946, she was appointed consultant to the Twickenham Child Guidance Clinic. Later she was appointed to the West Middlesex Hospital and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, where she eventually became Senior Psychiatrist. She retired from her hospital appointment because of age in 1969. Dr Holman was the author of many learned papers, but the one work (written with Amy Sycamore) in which she was able to expound her novel ideas was *Sebastian's: A Hospital School Experiment in Therapeutic Education*.

Portia Holman was a gentle, shy, nervous lady, an appearance that tended to belie her strength of character and, indeed, her personal courage. Despite her patrician heritage and upbringing, she was always on the side of the underdog. In her political beliefs she remained steadfastly left-of-centre. She volunteered for service in the Spanish Civil War on the anti-Franco side. She was allocated the job of cleaning out latrines, a job she did, if not with relish, then with determination. 'I left them cleaner than when I started', is how she laconically described her contribution to the cause.

**NATHAN SCHELLENBERG KLINE, Professor and Director of Rockland Research Institute, Orangeburg, NY 10962, USA.**

Dr Nathan Kline, Honorary Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, died on 11 February 1983 at the age of 66.

Dr Kline had a distinguished career as an educator,

research worker and clinical psychiatrist. He was born in Philadelphia, educated at Harvard, Princeton and Rutgers Universities. He obtained an MA degree at Clark University in 1951 and an MD degree at New York University in 1943. He was a resident at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Washington and pursued his career in various University and Hospital appointments in child psychiatry, neurology and clinical psychiatry. At the Columbia College of Physicians he worked as Research Associate, and as Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at New York University College of Medicine.

In 1950 he became Director of the Research Centre at Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, New York and developed a multidisciplinary team engaged in research on the biochemical, endocrinological and social aspects of mental disorders.

He worked as adviser to the National Institute of Mental Health and WHO, and became President of the International Committee Against Mental Illness, a body which carried out remarkable pioneering work in various parts of the world, including Haiti, where he established a modern psychiatric hospital with day, out-patient and in-patient facilities.

He established psychiatric facilities in Liberia. His work in helping developing countries throughout the world gained him many honours and awards, including a high honour from the Pope (Knight Great Cross Commander), and the Grand Officer of Légion d'Honneur et Mérite (Republic of Haiti) and Knight Grand Commander of the Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption.

He was awarded the prestigious Albert Lasker Award on two occasions: the first for his work on the introduction of reserpine in the treatment of schizophrenia, and the second for his work in introducing the monoaminoxidase inhibitors for the treatment of depression.

He was honorary member of many national psychiatric societies in all parts of the world.

He was a man of great initiative and on one occasion succeeded in visiting the son of the Dalai Llama, which involved arduous and difficult travels to Tibet; not only did he have an audience, but he succeeded in persuading him to join one of his committees!

For the past 18 years he was the convener of the Denghausen meetings, usually held in the Caribbean and limited in number to leading research workers in the field of depression. The members of this group are responsible for considerable advances in research into the causes and treatment of depression and some of the work is included in a monograph dedicated to the Denghausen family called *Factors in Depression*, edited by Nathan Kline.

He was a scholar in the widest sense of the word, and I remember one occasion when I dined with him in the Hilton