

Hotel in London he recited, word perfectly, the whole of Matthew Arnold's poem 'Sorab and Rustam'. Sitting nearby there was a lecturer from Oxford University who spontaneously remarked that it was the best rendering he had heard since that given by G. K. Chesterton.

He was a person of tremendous personality and unique charisma. He will be greatly missed by all his colleagues and friends.

WLR

ELIOT TREVOR OAKESHOTT SLATER, retired, Honorary Lecturer, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5.

One of the most distinguished clinical scientists to have worked in the field of psychiatry this century died suddenly on 15 May in his 79th year. In the eleven years that followed his election to Editorship, he was mainly responsible for transforming what had been the *Journal of Mental Science* into one of the world's most respected and influential psychiatric journals. The pains he took with the papers submitted to him, the personal interest he evinced in the work of authors, and the sharp, trenchant, but ever kindly and constructive, criticism he conveyed from the Editorial Chair made a contribution of inestimable value to psychiatry in Great Britain and wider afield.

One brief example of his editorial writing must suffice here. 'May I recommend to you very strongly the great desirability of writing scientific communications in the simplest and most straightforward English possible. Such polysyllabic words as "categorization" should be avoided, unless for some reason they are absolutely essential. I wonder whether you would like to go through your paper carefully just from this point of view, with your kind assessor's comments at your side, and see whether you cannot write something in a more "told to the children" style, which, at the same time, conveys all that you really want to say?'

In the 1930s he came under the influence of a group of distinguished refugees from Nazi Germany, including Willy Mayer-Gross, Eric Guttmann and Alfred Meyer, and was inspired by their teaching of phenomenological psychiatry to abandon Meyerian psycho-biology which he came to regard as scientifically sterile. But in clinical practice his approach remained broad, flexible and imaginative. In his papers on the Sonnets of Shakespeare and his delightful 'What Happened at Elsinore?' he showed himself well able to use psychodynamic ideas with flair and a compelling clinical authority.

From the year of his first publication in 1935 to the week in which he died, creative contributions continued to flow from his pen. The stamp of scientific rigour, intellectual lucidity, distinction, originality and the vigorously flowing and distinctive literary style already manifest in the early years were to be sustained over nearly half a century. The neurotic constitution, hysteria, schizophrenia, the inheritance

of a number of forms of mental disorder, the methodological aspects of genetic research, the pathography of musicians of genius, the judicial process, and voluntary euthanasia were all to engage his restless curiosity. He could be controversial and provocative. Yet hardly ever did he fail to illuminate and cause one to reconsider well entrenched opinions. Three of the textbooks of which he was co-author, *Physical Methods of Treatment in Psychiatry* (with W. Sargant), *Clinical Psychiatry* (with W. Mayer-Gross and Martin Roth) and *The Genetics of Mental Disorder* (with Valerie Cowie) have become widely influential, and the first two were to be translated between them into a total of ten languages. But as he was to show at several stages in his scientific and clinical career, he was indifferent to renown or reward. His intellectual brilliance and integrity and his personal interest in and kindness to all his associates evoked affection and deep loyalty in the many pupils who came from different parts of the world to work with him.

His wisdom, insight and clarity of mind, the generosity with which he gave his time and energy was of inestimable value to those engaged in laying the foundations of the College in the stormy early years after its initiation when differences threatened to divide it.

In the years after his retirement the many streams of his interests merged into a river of wider concerns for the future of mankind. Scientific life was only one side of the man. Jung, who had never laid claims for the scientific validity of his ideas and his concept of a global consciousness that extended without limit into the past and impelled the motivation of self into the future, appealed to him more than Freudian theories whose claims to *scientific* status he questioned. He devoted an increasing amount of time to paintings which bore the unmistakable imprint of his personality. His Mapother Lectures provided the most lucid and comprehensive analysis on record of the philosophical foundations of knowledge in psychiatry. But he never managed to achieve the final synthesis which he had hoped to embody in a fourth and final article. In his 76th year he was awarded his PhD for a thesis devoted to a statistical word study of the authorship of a play, *Edward the III*, in which he had applied his own version of mathematical techniques originally introduced by Udney Yule. It was sad that he did not live to learn that the Cambridge University Press had decided to publish the greater part of his thesis as a book. He devoted most of his other writings in the last few years to medical ethics, euthanasia, and nature conservation; his gentle compassionate spirit had been deeply stirred by the threats of pollution, over-population and the destruction of mankind that he saw looming increasingly large.

British psychiatry has lost its most renowned representative and with him the influence of a mind vigorous, bold, and imaginative and a spirit generous, disinterested and noble to an exceptional degree. His loss will be widely and deeply felt.

MR

The deaths of the following were also reported:

JOSEPH DUNDAS, 82 Main Street, Menston, nr. Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

MARY JENNY LAKE ELLIS, Senior Medical Officer, H.M. Borstal Institution, Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 4N.

HASSAN HAG ALI IBRAHIM, Head of Department, Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, Khartoum, P.O. Box 102, Sudan.

RAYMOND LESLIE JILLET, Governor and Medical Superintendent, Grendon Prison (for psychiatric cases), Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

HIMANSU SEKHAR SINHARAY, Consultant Psychiatrist, Winwick Hospital, Winwick, Warrington, Lancashire, WA2 8RR.

DAVID GEORGE ARTHUR WESTBURY, retired, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Winterton Hospital, Cleveland.

College News

Election results

As a result of the recent ballots, the following have been elected:

Registrar—Professor R. G. Priest

Elected Members of Council—Drs T. H. Bewley, M. D. Enoch, A. H. Reid and Professor G. C. Timbury; *Members of the Court of Electors*—Drs T. H. Bewley, P. Bowden, J. Jancar, S. Montgomery and J. L. Reed.

College Prizes

The following prizes have been awarded for 1983:

Gaskell Medal and Prize—Dr Christopher Thompson (Maudsley Hospital);

Bronze Medal and Research Prize—awarded jointly to Drs Adrienne and Michael Reveley (Institute of Psychiatry and Charing Cross Hospital respectively); Dr I. B. Glass was highly commended (Royal Free Hospital).

Forthcoming Events

The 8th International Congress organized by the **International Association of Group Psychotherapy** will be held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 April 1984. The theme of the Congress is 'What is Effective in Group Psychotherapy?' Programme submissions should be made to Dr Raymondo Macias, Chairman of Programme Committee, Fuego 143, 01900 Mexico DF, Mexico. Registration: Dr Jay Fidler, PO Box 327, Three Bridges, NY 08887, USA. Information: Dr Malcolm Pines, Tavistock Clinic, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3.

MIND's annual conference, 'Care in the Community—Keeping it Local', will be held on 24 and 25 October 1983 at Kensington Town Hall, London W8. Conference fee is £30 (closing date for application: 1 October 1983). Information: Conference Secretary, MIND, 22 Harley Street, London W1N 2ED.

A symposium entitled '**Physicians and Psychiatrists: Their Views on Alcohol Dependence**' will be held on 6 October 1983 at Galsworthy House, Kingston-upon-Thames. Information: Director, Galsworthy House, Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7LX.

A number of workshops and seminars will be held at the **Institute of Group Analysis** during the coming months. These include workshops on 'Sex and the Family' and 'Group Work with Severely Disturbed and Psychotic

Children.' There will be a series of seminars, led by Dr John Bowlby, on 'Attachment Theory in Relation to Psychotherapy.' Information (please include an s.a.e.): The Courses Secretary, The Institute of Group Analysis, 1 Daleham Gardens, London NW3 5BY.

A two-day, non-residential workshop, '**Repertory Grids and the Microprocessor**', will be held on 11 and 12 October 1983. The workshop will be led by Dr Finn Tschudi (University of Oslo); different programmes for analysing different forms of repertory grid will be compared and their various uses discussed. Applications and information: The Courses Director, Centre for Personal Construct Psychology, 132 Warwick Way, London SW1V 4JD.

The **Sixth Inter-Clinic Conference**, organized by the Child Guidance Trust, will be held on 13 and 14 October 1983 at the Kensington Town Hall, London W8. The conference theme will be 'Practice, Research and Teaching—How Do They Meet?' Information: Mrs Deirdre O'Connor, Conference Co-Ordinator, 22 Ladbrooke Gardens, London W11.

Places are still available on the **St. George's Hospital Medical School Course for Diploma in Human Sexuality**. This is a two-year course in counselling skills in the treatment of sexual problems. Information: Postgraduate Secretary, St. George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE (01-672 1255 Ext. 4499).