

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

**HANS ERICH HAAS, formerly Consultant
Psychotherapist, Uffculme Clinic, Birmingham 13**

Erich Haas, one of the few surviving early pioneers of psychoanalysis, died at his home in Birmingham in October 1990 at the age of 94. Born of Jewish parents, he served in the German Army in the first world war. After demobilisation he entered medicine, doing his pre-clinical studies in Bonn and his clinical studies in Cologne. After qualification he set off for Berlin with two of Freud's works in his suitcase. Between 1922 and 1927 while working in the field of general medicine and neuropsychiatry under Professor Bonhoeffer and later Professor Ascheffenburg, he met Karl Abraham, the then President of the Berlin Psychoanalytical Society, who invited him to a series of lectures and seminars on Freud's theories. Psychoanalysis found little support in academic circles at the time and he needed considerable courage to pursue his growing psychoanalytical interests in a climate of considerable opposition and at times derisive criticism. He underwent a personal analysis by Hans Sachs (who had been analysed by Freud) and was later supervised by him, becoming a member of the Psychoanalytical Society of Berlin.

He left Berlin in 1927 and took up practice in Cologne as a specialist in nervous diseases, working mainly as a psychoanalyst. He was the first psychoanalyst to work in Cologne where he was instrumental in attracting a small group of doctors to meet and discuss their interest in psychoanalysis. Although shy of publicity, he was persuaded to give what is widely believed to have been the first public broadcast on psychoanalysis in Germany.

In 1933, when Hitler came to power, he travelled to England to investigate the possibility of immigrating. Ernest Jones and Edward Glover, whom he already knew, encouraged him to leave and offered him every assistance in his plans to leave Germany. Ernest Jones emphasised the importance of trying to establish psychoanalysis outside the metropolis and, largely on his advice, Haas decided to settle in Birmingham. Although this isolated him professionally from other psychoanalysts, it was a decision he never regretted.

In late 1936 he arrived in Birmingham with a work permit to set up a psychoanalytic practice as psychologist while at the same time he became a medical student at the University of Birmingham in order

to obtain his medical registration in Britain. He re-qualified in 1941. Once established in Birmingham he became a seminal influence in the formation of a small circle of psychiatrists who met monthly in their homes to discuss cases of neuroses that were being treated by various forms of psychotherapy. He was a founder member of the Section of Psychiatry of the Birmingham Medical Institute, becoming one of its early presidents.

While accepting Freud's fundamental contributions to the theory of the neuroses, Haas had sympathies with those neo-Freudians who accepted the importance of the social environment in neurotic illness. In 1942 he was invited to establish an out-patient clinic at All Saints Hospital devoted to psychotherapeutic treatment of the neuroses. Later he transferred his activities to the Uffculme Clinic and he played an important part in its development and recognition as a centre for psychotherapy.

An enthusiast for clinical work, he was notably modest about his own contributions to his specialty. He was pragmatic and a realist in his approach to patients and used brief therapies extensively, not hesitating to recommend somatic treatments if he felt they would be helpful to the patient. He hated committees, saying they achieved little and only took the doctor away from his patients. An archetypical psychoanalyst in appearance and speech, his deepest satisfaction came from his relationships with his patients. He wrote and published little and seldom spoke publicly but when he did he was always worth hearing. His deepest satisfaction was the knowledge that his psychotherapeutic approach had helped some of his patients. This he regarded as reward enough and was the driving force in most of what he did during his long career.

His leisure pursuits reflected a wide interest in art and its history. He was a founder member of the Birmingham Chamber Music Society and a regular concert-goer until just before his death. He was keenly interested in archaeology and a collector of Greek icons. He liked doing things with his hands and was justly proud of his garden where he found respite from long hours of listening to patients. After the death of his wife in 1984 he developed considerable culinary skills.

While he outlived almost all of his contemporaries, many people from all walks of life in the West Midlands have good reason to be grateful to him,

not least the medical profession, many of whom became his patients. He will always be remembered as a pioneer of psychoanalysis who first introduced analytic psychotherapy to an area where it was virtually unknown. He is survived by his only daughter Dorothy, who is a general practitioner in Birmingham.

JAH

WILLIAM FERGUS MCAULEY, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Whiteabbey Training School, Kircubbin, County Down, N. Ireland

William (Billy) McAuley was born in Kircubbin, County Down, Northern Ireland, on 11 September 1917, where his father was a general practitioner, and died there on 26 December 1989, at the age of 72. He was educated at Regent House School, Newtownards and Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated MB BCH in 1943.

Following a year as houseman in the Tyrone County Hospital, he joined the RNVR and served with a flotilla of motor torpedo boats and motor gun boats, in the English Channel and in the Far East. On his return to Northern Ireland in 1946, he began his psychiatric training at the Downshire Hospital, acquiring his DPM, RCPSI in 1949 and proceeding to the MD in 1951. He was a founder-member of the College and was elected to the fellowship in 1974. He developed an interest in child psychiatry and during his appointment as consultant psychiatrist at St Luke's Hospital, Armagh between 1953 and 1959, he attended the Maudsley Hospital and the Tavistock Clinic and in 1959 was appointed the first consultant child psychiatrist in Northern Ireland, establishing a clinic in the Belfast City Hospital which subsequently transferred to the Children's Hospital.

He developed an excellent child psychiatric service, including community clinics, and provided valuable help to children's homes, probation services, training schools and the juvenile courts. His other interest was schizophrenia and he published *The Concept of Schizophrenia* in 1953.

He was a founder-member of the Irish Branch of the Association of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and many will remember the generous hospitality of Billy and his wife Marjorie at their home in Osborne Park, Belfast, following the meetings of the Society, when members from North and South could become acquainted. Here, Billy was to be seen at his best with his impish sense of humour, his twinkling eyes and his pipe never far away.

He retired to Kircubbin in 1972. He is survived by his wife, who was always such a wonderful support to him; by his daughters Barbara, Wendy and Patricia; and his six grandchildren.

WRM

KARL A. MENNINGER, Chairman, Board of Trustees, The Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas

Karl Menninger, one of the main architects of psychiatry in the USA as it was conceived and practised in the half century between the 1920s and the 1970s, died a few days before his 97th birthday on 18 July 1990. At the age of 25 he had joined his father to create a small private hospital in Topeka, Kansas which was later to expand into the Menninger Clinic on its vast campus of 42 buildings on a site of 400 acres. It became a leading centre of psychoanalytic training but also innovated patterns of general psychiatric treatment which left a lasting imprint upon clinical practice in North America.

He was analysed by Frank Alexander who held licence No. 1 from the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis where Anna Freud, Frieda von Reichmann and Karen Horney were among his contemporaries. He later helped to create institutes of psychoanalysis in Topica, Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans and San Francisco. But he was too much of an individualist to permit his theories or practices to be predetermined by doctrinal influences. Late in life he described Freud as one of his life heroes, along with Shakespeare, Dickens and Franklin D. Roosevelt; as for psychoanalysis, he continued to subscribe to it as to magazines he did not read.

He was inspired by an intense conviction of the mission of psychiatry in the shaping of human attitudes and relationships that enabled him to find a powerful voice that reached a wide medical and lay public. Prejudice and hostility predominated in the community against the mentally ill. His first book *The Human Mind*, followed by 12 others all written in a simple direct though emotive language, were widely influential in generating greater understanding and compassion.

In writings and lecture tours, in which he crossed the continent, he helped several generations to learn of the bonds of common humanity which linked all men to those who suffered in mind and to appreciate the skill, empathy and compassion demanded of those involved in their care.

Believing that the insights of psychoanalysis and psychiatry could help resolve social and political problems, he campaigned against nuclear armaments and in favour of prison reform. One of his friends, probably with Menninger's encouragement, sought to persuade President Reagan to apologise to the Japanese Government for the bomb dropped by the United States Air Force on Hiroshima during World War II. The responses to these pleas were predictable.

Believing that criminality issued from abuse and neglect in early formative years of development, he created a centre, "The Villages", for the care of rejected and homeless children, one of the pioneering