

regular two evenings of summer wine-and-cheese entertainment—and what wine and what cheese! To his friends he was the soul of sagacity and generosity, neither of which, nor indeed all his other faculties, had begun to dwindle when a severe cardiac operation led to his premature death at the age of 69.

SJGS

WILLIAM JOHN GRAY, Principal Medical Officer and Assistant Under Secretary of State, 88 Crosshill Terrace, Wormit, Fife.

Dr Gray will go down in the history of forensic psychiatry and penology in this country for his outstanding work at Grendon Psychiatric Prison.

His career had been a long preparation for this pioneering job. He grew up in Wishaw, in Lanarkshire, and went on to Glasgow University, at a time when the Great Depression had turned Clydeside into a huge colony of the underprivileged, undernourished, and unemployed. It may be that this ambience of deprivation, and not a little violence, turned Bill's mind to psychiatry. In any event, in 1939, he went to Glengall (now Ailsa) Mental Hospital in Ayr, as Deputy Medical Superintendent until he joined the RAMC in 1942. In the Army, he carried on his work as a specialist in psychiatry in the UK and in Italy. When he returned to civilian life in 1947, he met with bureaucratic insensitivity of an intolerable degree, and left Ayrshire to join the Prison Medical Service, to the detriment, for many years, of psychiatric services in Ayrshire, but to the benefit of the prison service. That service obviously thought very highly of him, as he was given senior medical appointments at the very important prisons at Wakefield, Maidstone, and Liverpool, all of them establishments dealing constantly with the most acute problems, and controversial issues, of custody and release of offenders; and they were seldom out of the public eye. The Home Office further recognised Bill's abilities by supporting his Nuffield Fellowship in 1967, in order for him to visit penal establishments in Europe, in particular the Herstedvester Psychiatric Institute in Denmark, under the medical directorship of Dr Stürup, then the high priest of prison psychiatry, and his institute the mecca of the cult.

When the over-long gestation of the pre-war East-Hubert report on mentally abnormal prisoners bore fruit in the shape of Grendon Psychiatric Prison, Bill's long grooming in the art made him a natural for the first ever Medical Superintendent/Governor of a psychiatric prison in the UK. The gentleness that went with his strength, his careful, studied, choice of words and phrases, were ideal attributes for the free communication so essential in a community of highly volatile prisoners, many of whom had horrendous records of violence. A remembered, and emulated, technique was the deliberate, unhasty, taking of a packet of cigarettes from an inside pocket, the courteous offer of a smoke, and the measured ritual of applying flame to tobacco. His officer door was always open, and no staff member, of no matter what grade or discipline, was ever refused the comfort of an attentive hearing, and a

considered and considerate response.

Bill's eventual departure from Grendon was marked not only by a richly deserved CB, and the usual staff parties, but by an unprecedented dinner and concert given to him by the inmates. He continued to serve on the Parole Board and as Senior Principal Medical Officer, and Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office till his final retirement at Tayside, where his qualities of clear thinking, firm decision-making, and gentle, persistent, patience were put to good use at the bridge-table and with a fishing rod.

The emotionally enormously demanding work at Grendon could not have been done without the support of his wife, Norma, who survives him, and their two daughters.

His almost shy, gentle smile, dry Scottish humour, and warm hospitality will not be forgotten by those who worked with him, in prison or in College matters.

PGMcG

DORIS MAUDE ODLUM, Honorary Consultant; 11 Golden Gates, Ferryway, Sandbanks, Poole, Dorset.

Doris Maude Odum died at the age of 95 on 14 October 1985. She had lived a remarkably active and productive life right up to the time of her death. In the last 30 years of her life she had become heavily involved with the Samaritans' organisation, becoming its Life President in 1974. She was an outstanding speaker, trained in the hard school of the suffragette movement. Her addresses at the Samaritans' Annual Conference at York, were always heart-warming occasions. She had given one, apparently as vigorous as ever, but concealing an unpleasant attack of angina, less than a month before she died. Like most orators, she had a natural acting talent, and this was put to good use in her remarkable role-play training session for the Bournemouth Samaritans. She had an intuitive sympathy with young people, wrote well about them, treated them professionally, and played them most vividly in her training sessions, up to and beyond her 90th year. Physically too she was strong, being the first woman to stroke a London University eight (for the London School of Medicine) against Cambridge, and she was also reserve for the National Fencing Championship team. She remained an enthusiastic swimmer and painter all her life.

Professionally, she began her career with a Classics degree at Oxford, and a Diploma of Education in London, and qualified in Medicine in 1924, at the London School of Medicine for Women (now the Royal Free Hospital) and St Mary's Hospital. She was always intent on a psychiatric career, and in particular on studying the psychiatric disabilities and neuroses seen in the practice of general medicine in both adults and children.

Soon after obtaining her DPM in 1927, she went to work with Dr Helen Boyle at the Lady Chichester Hospital, and then moved to her home town, Bournemouth, where she was the psychiatrist to the General Hospital. She held appointments in London, at the St Marylebone Hospital for Psychiatry and Child Guidance, and at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. She was extremely