

CLIFFORD TETLOW, previously Consultant Psychiatrist at the Central Hospital, Warwick, Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry and the University of Warwick

Clifford Tetlow, who died on 3 May 1990 at the age of 78, was born in Oldham on 1 June 1911. He was educated at Hulme Grammar School, Oldham and studied medicine at Manchester University. He graduated MB, ChB in 1935 having previously gained a BSc, in 1933. He was awarded the MD in 1962, and was elected a Foundation Fellow of the College in 1971.

Clifford was very much a "College man". He had been Chairman of the Midlands Division and a member of the Court of Electors and had previously been on the Council and Parliamentary Committee of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. The value accorded to his views led to his appointment to the Petitions Committee entrusted with the task of establishing the College, and he was one of two RMPA representatives on the Psychological Medicine Committee of the Royal College of Physicians. Thus he had the opportunity to influence the formation of the College and its constitution. Two beliefs underpinned his devotion to this cause. Firstly, he maintained that psychiatry had come of age and had earned its own academic and political voice within the general corpus of medicine. Secondly, he asserted that the RMPA was too dominated by physician superintendents. Despite the latter, his own personal and professional relations with the late Edward Stern, Physician Superintendent at the Central Hospital, were always good.

Clifford was associated with psychiatry in Warwickshire and Coventry since 1948 and was still seeing patients privately until shortly before his death. His clinical experience was possibly unrivalled and he brought to his work a disparate mixture of skills coupled with a very reflective approach to the nature of his subject. He was equally at home in the electroencephalographic department (which he established after attending an evening course in radio electronics), and the ward meeting in Leigh House where he developed an early treatment unit run on semi-therapeutic community lines. His work at Leigh House formed the basis of a Maudsley Bequest Lecture in 1965. A further innovation was the institution of a mother and baby unit, the first in the region, possibly reflecting his earlier interest in paediatrics, as well as the great importance he attached

to psychosocial factors. He was awarded his MD in 1962 for a thesis on this topic. With equal facility however he could don an organic hat and diagnose an insulin secreting tumour of the pancreas causing "neurotic" symptoms. This dual awareness made his opinion highly regarded and he was much esteemed by his general practitioner colleagues, with whom he had an excellent working relationship, having deliberately spent five years in general practice as a planned preliminary to taking up a psychiatric career. In this respect, as in many others, he was ahead of his time.

Despite an exceptionally heavy load of clinical and administrative work in a very over-burdened hospital he published regularly, and, appropriately for a Manchester graduate, was the recipient of the Gaskell Gold Medal and Prize in 1948 – the last non-teaching hospital psychiatrist to achieve this distinction.

At the end of the day however doctors must be judged by their patients and not by their professional achievements, their colleagues, or, as is the present trend, by management. Clifford would certainly agree with this. He can be confident his patients will return a good verdict.

Blest with a happy disposition he did not bring his professional problems home from work. When on holiday he enjoyed climbing, walking and reading and in retirement the pursuit of French literature in the original. His wife, Betty, died before him and of their three daughters Joan entered nursing, Anne the Diplomatic Service and Elizabeth the law. He subsequently married Ruth, who survives him.

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The deaths of the following have also been reported:

LUM CHYE OOI, Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

WALTER JOHANNES ADOLF RITTER VON BAEYER, Emeritus Professor, Berg.-Str. 58, 6900 Heidelberg, Germany.

SIDNEY WILSON SAVAGE, formerly County Medical Officer, Warwickshire.

GEORG K. STURUP, formerly Director, Herstedvester Clinic, Denmark.

WARREN MURRAY WHITE, Consultant Psychiatrist, 63 Atkinson Street, Templestowe, Victoria, Australia.

JURG ZUTT, Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology; formerly of University of Frankfurt, Germany.