

## Obituary

**JOHN STUART HARRIS, formerly Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor and Physician Superintendent, Claybury Hospital, Essex.**

Dr John Stuart Harris died on 2 May 1986 aged 85, after a long and painful illness.

Born in Lincolnshire, he received both his general and medical education at Edinburgh, graduating in 1922. After holding posts at Hanwell and West Park Hospitals, he joined the staff of the Maudsley Hospital, working for four years under Professor Edward Mapother, whom he admired, before returning to West Park Hospital as Deputy Physician Superintendent. In 1939, at the early age of 38, he became Physician Superintendent of Claybury Hospital, where he stayed until 1961. He held the post of Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor for four years subsequently.

Stuart Harris was a shy and reticent man, and did not publicise his achievements. Yet the consultants who worked with him remember him as one of the best of this country's Physician Superintendents and his administration at Claybury as wise, patient and benign. He opened wards at a time when this was unusual, and opened psychiatric out-patient clinics at St Clement's Hospital, Bow, and at the North Middlesex Hospital. Quietly and patiently, he introduced liberal change to Claybury, and at the same time carefully selected the next generation of Claybury psychiatrists.

Without this preparation, Claybury would not have been ready to play its leading role in the development of the therapeutic community movement in the late fifties and sixties. His achievement is that he laid the path which John Pippard, the late Denis Martin and others have followed.

Stuart and his wife, Kathleen, a psychiatric nurse who worked at the Maudsley Hospital, retired to Sheringham, Norfolk, to enjoy playing golf and bridge. His friends remember him as a witty and dignified man. Their son, Robert, a probation officer, married a psychiatric nurse. Their daughter, Eileen, is married to a former Claybury Registrar, Graham Evans; they are now both Consultant Psychiatrists at Kingseat Hospital, New Zealand. Claybury Ward, at Kingseat, testifies to their roots.

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**PHILIP REGINALD ALDRIDGE MAY, Della Martin Professor in Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute, Los Angeles, California, USA.**

Professor May, a native Englishman, died of abdominal cancer at his home in Malibu, California, in December of last year at the age of 66.

He was born in Weymouth on 30 May 1920, and received his initial medical education at Cambridge and Guy's. He graduated MB, BChir(Cantab) in 1944 and was elected MRCP (London) in 1947. He continued his studies at Stanford University, California, and was awarded the MD

in 1946. In 1978 he was elected MRCPsych, and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1983.

In recognition of his distinguished services to psychiatry he was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Gothenberg, Sweden, one of many awards of national and international importance he was to receive.

Having decided to emigrate permanently to the USA, it was in that country that he was first to make his mark. He joined the UCLA faculty in 1956, and was appointed clinical director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute in 1962. Then, in 1977, he was selected to become the first incumbent of the newly founded Della Martin chair of psychiatry.

Professor May enjoyed a worldwide reputation as an authority on the treatment of schizophrenia for which, it is interesting to note, he used the eponymous term 'Bleuler's Disease', in an important paper he delivered to the annual meeting of the American College of Psychiatrists as recently as February, 1986.

He was a prolific writer and apart from his magnum opus, *The Treatment of Schizophrenia*, published in 1968, he contributed more than 160 scientific publications to the literature.

As the result of his intensive studies over many years, May was able to demonstrate that of the available treatments for schizophrenia, patients treated either with drugs alone, or with drugs plus psychotherapy, did best. Those treated with milieu therapy or psychotherapy by themselves fared worst, whereas those treated with ECT "fell somewhere in the middle." The objective proof he provided of the superiority of psychopharmacological drugs in the treatment of schizophrenia is obviously one of prime importance.

In subsequent research May attempted to identify a method whereby the outcome of a particular treatment could be predicted. He claimed that a patient's response to a single test dose of a particular medication provided an accurate predictor of the long-range outcome. He was further concerned with the side effects of anti-psychotic medication, particularly those distressing involuntary movements such as akathisia and tardive dyskinesia.

Professor May was an attractive writer. His papers are enlivened by his wry sense of humour. For example, the paper referred to above concludes, "It is a wise therapist who knows the difference between a magician and a wizard. Psychotic patients can sense the difference—they can tell when a therapist is out of touch with reality."

**ROLF STRÖM-OLSEN, formerly Physician Superintendent, Runwell Hospital, Essex.**

Dr Rolf Ström-Olsen, First Physician Superintendent of Runwell Hospital, died aged 84 on 14 October 1986. Born in Oslo of Norwegian parents, he was educated there and in