

# Obituary

**JOHN ALEXANDER BALDWIN, Director, Oxford University Unit of Clinical Epidemiology, Old Road, Headington, Oxford.**

Dr John Baldwin, Director of the Oxford Record Linkage Study and Unit of Clinical Epidemiology, died suddenly on 29 August 1982, aged 55. John Baldwin qualified in medicine with honours in Aberdeen. In the course of post-graduate training in psychiatry he became interested in epidemiology. A research fellowship enabled him to pursue this interest in the University Department of Psychiatry in Aberdeen, where he and his colleagues set up a pioneering psychiatric case register. He set out to show how this kind of information gathering could be used to plan and manage mental health services. The results of this important work were published as a book, *The Mental Hospital in the Psychiatric Service*, in 1971.

From Aberdeen, John Baldwin moved to Oxford to direct the Record Linkage Study. This comprehensive register included all forms of medical and surgical diseases as well as psychiatric disorders. The new post brought large administrative responsibilities, but it also allowed John Baldwin to extend his interests beyond psychiatry. For example, he published on maternity and child health, on cancer and on thyroid disease. These wide interests were reflected in his election to the Fellowship of the Faculty of Community Medicine. However, while devoting himself wholeheartedly to these general medical issues, Baldwin's first interest continued to be in psychiatry. He developed two aspects of the case register. The first concerned the linking of medical and psychiatric data. This research was developed in conjunction with the WHO in an important study of medical disorders among the families of schizophrenic patients. The second interest was to develop the potential of computers to link the records of different members of the same family, a technically difficult undertaking which he was still pursuing at the time of his death.

Despite these wide responsibilities, John Baldwin continued to take an active interest in the work of the Oxford Division of Psychiatry of which he was chairman for several years. He was a friendly colleague, always ready to give time to others. He never failed to offer advice and help to those who were planning their own research. He was especially concerned with problems of the ethics of psychiatric research and was for many years chairman of the Research Ethics Committee. To his immediate colleagues he was a warm-hearted, popular man. In the wider field of medical research he was respected for his wise counsel. Outside his work, he led a particularly happy family life in his home in an Oxfordshire village. He is survived by his wife and one son.

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**DAVID LEWIS DAVIES, Consultant Psychiatrist, 152 Harley Street, London W1.**

Dr David Lewis Davies, Emeritus Physician to the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, died on 24 October 1982, aged 72.

Chance has led many famous psychiatrists, including Henry Maudsley, into their careers. In February 1939, David Davies, a locum general practitioner in Derby, returned to his digs in a chilly farmhouse with a leaking roof. He was convalescing from a quinsy, and was feeling 'very miserable'.\* Then 'a friend rang up from a mental hospital and said, "Would you do a locum?" I said, "Is it warm?" He said, "It's marvellous." I said, "Is the food good?" He said, "It's superb".' But it wasn't the warmth and food which kept him there. He became fascinated by the patients.

He had left Manchester Grammar School with a scholarship to St John's College, Oxford. There he gained a first class degree in Physiology, and intended to return to that subject after qualifying. He duly took up a Demonstrator's post at Leeds. Fortunately for psychiatry, he found the work too biochemical for his taste, and returned to a clinical career, and thus to the fateful farmhouse. He soon obtained his DPM and ended the war in charge of a 300-bed unit in India. On his return, he applied for a job at the Maudsley, and Aubrey Lewis chose him as a registrar. He then 'started to learn real psychiatry. I realized that I had been doing my work with no real knowledge of psychiatry at all. It was just, I say "just" in inverted commas, it was "just" experience.'

For the rest of his life, Davies was to ensure that his own work, and the work of his colleagues of all grades and trades, would never be 'just experience', but an exciting amalgam of scholarship, common sense, humour and, above all, curiosity and a love of the unexpected. He was a gifted and shrewd clinician, and his research was firmly rooted in his clinical expertise. In 1950, two years after his appointment to the staff of the Hospital, and the year when he started his Deanship, he began to take an interest in the treatment of alcoholic patients. His follow-up studies, with Edgar Myers and Michael Shepherd, set new standards in this field. As is well-known, his 1962 paper on 'normal drinking in recovered alcohol addicts' caused a considerable stir. He wrote on other clinical subjects, and had a particular interest in 'psychiatric art', being Curator of the Guttman-Maclay Collection for many years.

His acute cast of mind and unpretentiousness combined to make him an outstandingly influential teacher. (At least ten of this country's professors were once his junior doctors.)

\* This and other quotations come from 'Conversation with D. L. Davies' published in the *British Journal of Addiction* (1979), 74, 239-49.