
Obituaries

Sinclair Stewart Sutherland, formerly Physician Superintendent, Hartwood Hospital, Lanarkshire

The death of Sinclair Sutherland on 25 March 1997 robbed Scottish psychiatry of one of its most colourful characters. Born in Carluke, Lanarkshire and educated at Wishaw High School, he graduated in medicine at Aberdeen in 1955. After working in orthopaedics and general practice, he decided on a career in psychiatry and trained in Aberdeen and in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1966 he became a consultant at Woodilee and Stoneyetts Hospital, near Glasgow, and was elected FRCPsych in 1983.

Throughout his career, psychotherapy was his major interest and he was a keen founder member of the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section of the Scottish Division. In hospital he fostered Occupational and Industrial therapy, but he most enjoyed his out-patient and domiciliary work. Eventually, he became Physician Superintendent at Hartwood Hospital in Lanarkshire which was a kind of home-coming although he retained his love for the North-East and enjoyed being mistaken for an Aberdonian. He retired at 65 but, reluctant to stop work, he took locum posts in Glasgow and Stranraer only fully retiring a short time before his death at the age of 67.

He developed diabetes at the age of 16 and, as a student, had to spend many months immobilised in a plaster-cast because of tuberculosis of the spine. Thereafter, his life involved a reluctant battle with illness. His cavalier attitude to insulin dependency led to some awkward moments and eventually to complications but he refused to be an invalid and led the life of a fit man. Even a below-knee amputation did not deter him, although it forced him to give up motor cycling.

He was intelligent, but not intellectual and living in haste – he thought he would not live beyond the age of 40 – he derived great pleasure from fast cars and his motor cycle: he broke several bones as a result including cervical vertebrae in a life-threatening incident which led to another period of immobility in traction. Not surprisingly, he had a horror of hospitalisation which complicated the treatment of his final illness. He tried to see the world on his bike but failed to get his last wish to visit Italy.

His private life was both happy and sad. He was married twice and divorced twice. Both marriages brought him joy and pain but he was lucky to find eventual consolation with a partner who nursed him through his last few years. He was convivial and preferred the company of others to his own; helping many people through their difficulties even while coping with his own. He was sometimes irascible because of poor health but he never lost his charm. He was kind and generous and a good friend. Late in life he joined the Baptist Church and he undoubtedly gained much from this.

His battle against illness was eventually lost and his last months involved several admissions to hospital for brief periods. With typical boldness he shrugged these off and managed, against the odds, to die at home. He was a proud Scot and he was laid to rest in Carluke to the sound of the bagpipes.

He will be missed, sadly by those close to him and fondly by many others.

BOB DAVIDSON

Alfred James Warren

James Warren was born in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, on 16 July 1912, the son of English emigrants. He was educated at Brandon Collegiate Institute where he graduated in 1930 as the top high school student in Manitoba and was awarded The Governor General's Medal. With this award, and two scholarships, he entered the Medical School at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, where he was actively involved in a wide range of student activities. In addition to being elected – and re-elected – Class President, he was a Captain in the Royal Canadian Army University Medical Corps and a Captain in the Manitoba Medical School Rifle Team. He was awarded a gold medal for anatomy and taught this subject at the Winnipeg Art School, as well as being an instructor in histology at the University.

While he was a medical student he worked during his vacations at the Brandon Mental Hospital and became interested in psychiatry, so after he graduated MD in 1936 he accepted the position of staff psychiatrist at the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale, near Vancouver. He believed that to be a very good psychiatrist he must first be a very good physician so, in 1938, he went to London for one year to study at the