ABPN 75th Anniversary Celebration

Giants of Psychiatry

Robert Michels, MD
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September 26, 2009
The First Board: 1934

- C. Macfie Campbell
  - Louis Casamajor
- Clarence Cheney
- Franklin Ebaugh
  - Walter Freeman
    - George Hall
- Jeffrey Allen Jackson
  - Adolf Meyer
    - Louis J. Pollock
- Douglas H. Singer
  - Edwin Zabriskie
  - Lloyd H. Ziegler
Through the 1940’s

- Nolan D. C. Lewis
- Edward A Strecker
- Henry William Woltman
- Titus Harris
- Tracy Jackson Putnam
- Hans Reese
- Johannes M. Nielsen
- John Charmley McKinley
- Percival Bailey
- Hiram Houston Merritt
- John M. Murray
- Alphonse R. Vonderahe
- Karl M. Bowman
- John C. Whitehorn
- S. Bernard Wortis
- Harold D. Palmer
- S. Spafford Ackerly
- Francis Braceland
- Roland Parks Mackay
- Kenneth E. Appel
- George H. Stevenson
- Lawrence Wooley
- Bernard J. Alpers
- Louis J. Karnosh
1950’s

- Frederick P. Moersch
- George Neely Raines
- Russell N. DeJong
- Paul I. Yakovlev
- David A. Boyd
- Francis J. Gerty
- Francis M. Forster
- William Malamud
- Henry Walter Brosin
- Knox H. Finley
- Harvey Bartle
- Charles Henry Harding Branch
- L. McKendree Eaton
- Hugh T. Carmichael
- A.B. Baker
- Sidney Carter
- Alexander Treloar Ross
1960’s and Beyond

- Jack Richard Ewalt
- Jacques S. Gottlieb
- Lawrence Kolb
- Adolph L. Sahs
- Augustus S. Rose
- Ewald W. Busse
- Charles Rupp
- Walter Earl Barton
- Arnold P. Friedman
- Robert L. Stubblefield
- Harvey Tompkins
- David Barrett Clark
- Milton Greenblatt

- Lester H. Rudy
- Marc H. Hollender
- Richard M. Steinhilber
- Thomas R. Johns
- James N. Sussex
- Melvin D. Yahr
- John R. Calverley
- Donald G. Langsley
- S. Mouchly Small
- John R. Calverley
- Leonard Berg
- William L. Webb
- Maurice J. Martin
- Gary J. Tucker
New York, NY October 20, 1934

Adolf Meyer (1866-1950)
• Swiss Pathologist and Psychiatrist first Chairman of the Board in 1934
• Emigrated to the US in 1892, first to the University of Chicago, and then Cornell University from 1904 to 1909,
• Mental and physical problems, were inseparable, and life experience offered clue to psychotic reactions
• Director of the Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic at Johns Hopkins University from 1913-1941
Life at Phipps

- “With his bushy goatee, heavily accented English, and penetrating gaze, Meyer seemed the stereotype of the practicing psychiatrist.”
- Insisted half the clinic’s resources went to serving the poor around the hospital
- Created a residency which became a cherished prize for psychiatrists from all parts of the world
The Lure of a Master

- International dignitaries were traveling to Hopkins for psychiatric treatment
- “Meyer’s patient histories were legendary—beautiful, compassionate, and meticulous. His questions were so good his format became the standard around the world. We still use it.”
- Meyer was someone who could argue for and against any diagnosis in the same patient. You would pick the one [treatment] that seemed to suit the patient and the circumstances best but be prepared to use another if that failed. It wasn’t about doing this kind of psychotherapy, or giving that kind of drug. It was about figuring out how best to help and continuing to learn.”
Clarence O. Cheney (1887-1947)

• First Secretary of the Board
• Trained at Columbia University and served as physician and pathologist at Manhattan State Hospital on Ward’s Island
• 1936-46 Medical Director of New York Hospital-Westchester Division
C. Macfie Campbell (1876-1943)

- “A meticulous, precise thinker with a dry Scottish wit”
- Born in Edinburgh Scotland, earning his BA and MD from Edinburgh University
- “Liberal in the best meaning of the word” he lived and studied in France and Germany before arriving in the US
- Instructor in Psychiatry at Cornell from 1909-1911, when he joined Adolf Meyer at the new Phipps Clinic at Johns Hopkins
- Joined HMS in 1920 as professor of psychiatry and medical director of Boston Psychopathic Hospital
“An Alienist at the Sacco-Vanzetti Trial”

- Pioneer in establishing the relationship between psychiatry and medicine, including works “The Role of Instinct, Emotion, and Personality in Disorders of the Heart”
- One of the earliest to stress the importance of psychological and situational factors in affective disorders
- Emphasized the setting in which the patient “lived, thought, felt, and worked”
- One of 4 psychiatrists to testify on behalf of Nicola Sacco, urging Americans to “face our physical and mental crudity and honestly strive, with such coarse, raw material to weave as good a texture as we can”
Franklin G Ebaugh (1895-1972)

- Trained at Johns Hopkins at the Phipps Psychiatric Center
- 1924-1953 “Brought psychiatry to the mountains and plains” as the first Director of the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital
- Served as a full Colonel in WWII, as a neuropsychiatric consultant to the armed forces, earning the Legion of Merit
Pioneer in the West

• Designed Colorado state-wide program of mental illness, including one of the first series of community mental health clinics in the US, serving 150 state communities
• Organized the Colorado Mental Hygiene Society
• 1936 Survey of psychiatric services for the Territory of Hawaii, and in the following year he was responsible for the implementation of these plans
H. Douglas Singer (1875-1940)

- First President of the Board
- Earned the “Grand Slam of American psychiatry and neurology”
- “In his quiet way” he contributed to the purity of the seal
Professional Training

• Born in London, he trained at St. Thomas Hospital and completed residency at the National Hospital of London
• Arrived in the US in 1904 to teach in Creighton University, Omaha
• Then entered state service in Illinois as the head of the Psychopathic Institute of Kankakee, state alienist, and professor of psychiatry at the University of Illinois
• Frequent appearances as expert witness for the state, including the trail of Loeb and Leopold of the murder of Bobby Franks in 1924
Edward A. Strecker (1886-1959)

- German by ancestry, Philadelphian by background
- Trained at Jefferson and had a 30-year-career at Pennsylvania Hospital
- Appointed to Head of Psychiatry at University of Pennsylvania, at first in name only as there was yet no department
- Authored the best known standard text of the time *Fundamentals of Psychiatry*
A Psychiatrist for the Military

- Enlisted as a 1st Lieutenant in WWI, serving as the only divisional psychiatrist for the 28th in France
- Worked as a consultant to the US Public Health Service and the Veteran’s Bureau in the interwar period
- Published *Beyond Clinical Frontiers*, writings almost prophetic of the disturbances of mass psychology of the world as seen during WWII
- In WWII, enlisted as a consultant to the Secretary of War, Army Air Forces & the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, US Navy, often refereeing struggles between the services
- Had access to a room in the White House whenever he wished, as well as in General Eisenhower’s suite in London
- Named a consultant to FDR and received a presidential citation from President Truman
A Born Salesman

- Helped to prove psychiatry to the conservative Philadelphia establishment
- Recruited as a “long-distance” professor to sell the field to the Yale authorities
- His own lectures were so popular cards of admission had to be given to his students or they were overrun with students from other medical schools
Titus Harris (1892-1969)

- Grew up on a plantation in Fulshear, TX, the son of a Civil War surgeon
- Attended Southwestern University, serving as the 1913 and 1914 football and baseball captain
- Backfield star in football and a catcher who hit .400, he was signed to the Houston farm team of the St. Louis Cardinals
- Pursued a career in medicine instead at the University of TX School of Medicine
• Served as Chairman of the Dept of Psychiatry at Texas for 37 years, the longest continuous period at any medical school in the country

• Cared for LA governor Earl Long after he had a mental break during a speech to the state legislature and was forcibly removed from the Governor’s Mansion on television
Nolan D. C. Lewis (1889-1979)

- Melded interest in analysis and biological psychiatry, one of the earliest proponents of rigorous experiments in psychopharmacology
- Studied under Freud at the University of Vienna in 1914
- Graduate of the University of MD, 1914-1918 fellow in psychology at Johns Hopkins, neuropathologist to the Army Medical Museum
- 1936 Director of New York State Psychiatric Institute, Professor of Psychiatry Columbia University
- 1953 Named Chairman of New Jersey’s Mental Health Unit
“Analyst at Top Nazi Trials”

• Fluent in German, acted as a consultant to the Nuremberg war crimes trials
• Declared 22 top Nazis “sane and fit for trial” including Rudolf Hess, Hermann Goering, Albert Speer
• Did research for the US government on Nazi medical experiments and effects of the bombing of Hiroshima
Psychopharmacology

• One of the first American psychiatrists to experiment with mescaline
• Described the experience in 1951:
  “Increased acuity to sound- he could hear his cat walking on the rug”
• Links between this experience and the world of schizophrenia, which would be his specialty in later years
Karl M Bowman (1888-1973)

- Born in Topeka, he attended medical school at the University of California
- Worked closely with Macfie Campbell in Boston before taking up the “$9,000-a-year post” as director at Bellevue
- While at Bellevue, earned a reputation as a favorite among patients, resulting in the quelling of “riot” with a Christmas story
- Went on to become the first chairman of the new department of psychiatry at UCSF
A Domestic and International Bent

• 1964-1967 served as the Director of Mental Health for the new state of Alaska, one of his last publications being on the effect of the March 27, 1964 earthquake on his patients and facility

• After service in the Naval Reserve, was tapped by the WHO to help organize psychiatry departments spanning from the Philippines, to China, to Siriraj Medical School in Bangkok
A Flair for the Controversial

• A “courageous and frank speaker, knowledgeable statements were characteristic of him. Long before civil rights was a watchword, he was outspoken in asserting the rights to legal protection and medical care of the mentally ill, sex offenders, homosexuals, addicts and alcoholics.”

John C. Whitehorn (1894-1973)

- Known as a “most gentle, shy, and soft-spoken man, immensely admired for his enormous strength of spirit in bitter controversies.”
- Only Board Member elected President for 3 terms (1946, 48, 49) at a time of a near schism between the APA and ANA
- Urged a more conservative pattern of scientific societies, turned down a presidency in the American Psychosomatic Society for its “propagandistic policies”
From Humble Beginnings

• Born in 1894 on a frontier homestead in Spencer, NB, attending school in a one room-sod house on the prairie
• Worked on the homestead farm, as a Sunday School teacher, a printer, and in a shipyard during WWI before putting himself through Doane College, earning a scholarship to Harvard Medical School
• His career began in biochemistry, meriting the distinction of creating the “Whitehorn method” or identifying blood chlorides, and his name continues to circulate in the footnotes of Chemistry journals
• Held positions at MGH and Washington University before succeeding Adolf Meyer at Johns Hopkins University
The Office of a Physician-Scientist

• “In one corner a polarimeter, in another a chemical balance, and around the walls bound volumes of biochemical, physiological, and chemical journals, while Dr. Whitehorn recalled that his appointment pad during one week listed psychotherapeutic interviews with 6 physicians and 6 wives of physicians.”
S. Bernard Wortis (1904-1969)

- “A tall, well-built physician known to his associates as ‘Sam’”
- 1927 graduate of Cornell Medical College who worked as a mucker on the crew digging the East River tunnel
- Triple boarded in psychiatry, neurology, and internal medicine
- Served as chairman of psychiatry and neurology at NYU Medical Center and Dean of the Medical School from 1960-1963
Psychiatrist as Dean

- Pushed for more training in psychiatry for all physicians and nurses, stating “There no longer exist fears of epidemics, but now the psychosomatic problems of medicine.”
- Also said courses in sociology and anthropology could help “deal with the things that make problems in people.”
- Felt that “even the best-trained physician is an antique in 19 years unless he keeps very close to an active teaching center.”
Francis Braceland (1900-1985)

- A “poor Philadelphia boy” fond if not proud of being from a neighborhood called “Brewerytown”
- Was 26 by the time he earned enough money to complete college at La Salle
- Found a kindred spirit in Dr. Strecker at Jefferson Medical College
- Recipient of the Rockefeller Fellowship in Psychiatry
- Studied under Dr. Carl Jung in Zurich in interwar Switzerland, a “parochial Philadelphian turned cosmopolite”
An Academic and Military Man

• In 1941 became Dean of the School of Medicine at Loyola, only to join the Navy a year later, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral, serving as Special Assistant to the Surgeon General
• Helped to establish an empirical trial-of-duty observation for new recruits and psychological evaluation for prospective candidates for future assignments
• Returned to civilian life with a stint at the Mayo Clinic working with colleagues to “eradicate the snake pits of state hospitals”
• Finished out his career from 1951-1984 turning the Institute of the Living in Hartford from a “plush sanitarium for the rich” to a highly respected facility for the seriously ill
Poise, Wit, and Facility at Turning a Phrase...

- Known for his wit clothed with salty advice:
- His philosophy on old age: “One can have silver in his hair and gold in his teeth, there need be no lead in his sitzplatz.”
- In writing on the early days of the Board: “To get neurologists and psychiatrists of that period in time to sit down together without police present was itself an accomplishment for there was always a feeling among the senior neurologists, many of whom were wonderful me, that Neurology was the “Queen of the Sciences” and psychiatry was a young interloper. The psychiatrists in turn said the neurologists preached neurology but practiced psychiatry to make a living.”
Kenneth E. Appel (1896-1979)

- From a family of college presidents, ministers and lawyers in Lancaster, PA
- Earned his PhD from Harvard in Philosophy and Psychology at 22 and MD at 24
- Worked with a number of medicine’s greats as a student, sitting in on Dr. Elwell Southard’s class on psychopathology in Shakespeare
- Met Sir William Osler, who lead him to study physiology under Starling at Oxford
- Trained under Bond and Strecker at the University of PA, succeeding Strecker as Chairman in 1952, training the next generation in Francis Braceland
A Forceful Lobbyist

- Used his 1954 APA Presidential address to bring the neglect of mental patients to light, with treatment often cut to $1.50 a day
- Played a leading role in the Congressional Creation of the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health
- Its final report came in 1963, leading to the first presidential message on mental health ever sent to Congress, advising bringing treatment back into the mainstream and returning care of mental patients to the community
- National Mental Retardation and Construction & Mental Health Community Center Acts, signed by Pres. Kennedy less than a month before his death
Capt. George N Raines (1908-1959)

• Raised in Jackson, MS with a father who would have preferred him to be a dentist, attending Ole Miss then Northwestern for his MD
• Was known to be a jazz buff, playing drums in a Dixieland style band during college
• Known for intolerance of mediocre performance, he rose from Lieutenant in the Medical Core to Captain in the Navy, serving aboard the USS Idaho, USS Saratoga among others
• Served as Chief of Neuropsychiatry at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda and Chairman of Psychiatry at Georgetown, taking leave after a year of hospitalization and only 4 months before his death
The Case of James Forrestal

- James Forrestal, the first Secretary of Defense, was admitted to the care of Dr. Raines due to severe depression “directly the result of excessive work during the war and post-war years.”

- As Raines felt he was improving, he was given extended privileges and “it was decided that removal of constant which would be of therapeutic value” after he tired of having attendants in his room.

- At 1:50 am, May 22, 1949, he plunged 13 floors to his death from a single-screen window in a nearby kitchen, with his bathrobe cord tied around his neck.
Aftermath

- Raines testified: “Suicide is the mortality rate of therapeutic psychiatry. The Navy has not and does not subscribe to the view that psychiatric patients should be thrown in a dungeon. It is our belief that calculated risks of therapy must be accept for the practice of modern psychiatry.”
Francis J. Gerty (1892-1994)

- Began his career in the family tradition, teaching in the Chicago Schools, with forays into mechanical drawing and woodwork, as well as languages.
- Switched to medicine at Loyola University for two reasons: “the love of doing things with his hands, and that the vocational job paid better by far”
Politics in Practice

• Headed Cook County Psychopathic Hospital for 19 years

• In seeking to correct the deficiencies of the system, he ran headlong into the political quagmire of Chicago

• Investigation of the hospital was undertaken in hearings beginning Thanksgiving 1923 lasting until Christmas, resulting in his complete exoneration
“Eclectic in the Pristine Sense”

- Taught at Loyola, then replaced Singer as the Chairman at the University of Illinois
- Averse to “schoolishness” but brought harmony to the questions of academia versus community practice
- His home was of “books and more books” but continued to love to work with his hands, filling one tool shed then building another
- Built his own library to house his books out of “quarter sawed oak, whatever that is” (Braceland)
- Wide range of publications, including “Clinical Effects of Moonshine Liquors” for the Public Health Journal
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