assistant grade should be through Advisory Appointments Committees, which should include independent assessors to ensure that qualifications and experience are of an appropriate standard. In addition, the terms and conditions of service of these grades should be flexible and allow opportunities to apply for senior registrar and consultant posts, with credit for time of service in the 'non-training' grade where applicable.

(d) The clinical assistant grade should continue to be used to meet service needs, when a doctor has no specialist qualification to be graded otherwise, or when the work does not require specialist skills (e.g., the physical care of long-term patients).

The clinical assistant grade might also be retained for GPs who are desirous of increasing their experience in the specialty for use in general practice, or with a view to advancing at a later stage to the grade of hospital practitioner.

However, in the event of failure of the above recommendations, the Working Party would wish to reconsider the position of the clinical assistant grade.

HENRY DICKS

The death on 12 July of Dr Henry Dicks, for many years Consultant at the Tavistock Clinic and a Past-President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, removes one of the most outstanding and most admired figures of British psychiatry. He was born in Pernau, Estonia (then Russia) in 1900. His father was an English exporter and ship owner who also acted as British Vice-Consul, and his mother came from a cultured academic German family. The family returned to England after the upheavals of the first World War and the Russian Revolution, but by then Henry had had a considerable classical education in Leningrad. Speaking English, Russian and German like a native, and with good French, he became an interpreter with Military Intelligence in North Russia with the British Expeditionary Force and subsequently with the British Military Mission to General Denikin in South Russia and the Caucasus.

While at school, Henry had at times contemplated music as a profession—he remained a keen violinist all his life, playing in several chamber groups and in recent years the London Medical Orchestra—but on leaving the army he decided to study medicine. At St. John's College, Cambridge and then Bart's he was an outstanding student gaining several academic prizes and distinctions. Qualifying in 1926 he went on to take his M.R.C.P. in 1927 and his M.D. in 1930, by which time he had become Chief Assistant to Lord Horder. From such prospects it was a courageous step to join the relatively new Tavistock Clinic. Doubtless his cultured cosmopolitan background contributed to this early interest in psychological medicine, for his profoundly humanistic concern perpetually directed his interests to the study of the whole man in his particular culture. This wide perspective was also the important factor in his decision to train at the Tavistock rather than with the psychoanalysts.

His talents for his new field of study were quickly manifested, for within a few years he was Assistant Medical Director. From further experience he published in 1939 his *Clinical Studies in Psychopathology*. This was a popular textbook and it is of interest today to note that Dicks was then articulately alive to the constrictive materialistic philosophy in medicine, especially in neurology. Within his more comprehensive philosophy of the nature of man, he offered as a sheet anchor to those confronting the complexities of psychopathology the view that 'every patient with mental illness was more afraid than he could tolerate when he was a baby, and the faults in his psychic structure represent the gallant attempts to allay this intolerable feeling by the inadequate means at his disposal'. The prescience of this generalization is an excellent indicator of the extent to which all of his work evolved from a wisdom that contrasts notably with the limitations of more doctrinaire attitudes.

When World War II broke out, Dicks went with some of his colleagues to the EMS Neurosis Centre at Stanborough, Watford, and in 1941 he joined the Army as a Specialist Psychiatrist, being Command Psychiatrist, London District for a time. But the landing in this country of Rudolf Hess soon started him on a new line of work. With his unusual facility in German, he was sent to be in medical care of this highly important prisoner, an experience which he subsequently described in *The Case of Rudolf Hess*. During the next four years, with the rank of Lt. Col., he was adviser with the Army on German morale, with SHAEF on psychological warfare, and with the Control Commission on German personnel. This work subsequently led to his collaboration with many distinguished anthropologists in Europe and the United States in projects on Culture and Personality carried out for UNESCO. In more recent years he was a Senior Research Officer at the Columbus

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125077301129 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Centre in the University of Sussex for Research in Collective Psychopathology, from which post he produced *Licensed Mass Murder*, a study of some of the SS killers.

In 1946 he was invited to be the first Nuffield Professor of Psychiatry at Leeds University, but two years later his cultural interests and his involvements in a variety of research studies drew him to return to London and to the Tavistock Clinic. There for the next twenty years he played a major part in stimulating fresh viewpoints in clinical work and in providing a broad vision for the consideration of the implications of clinical work for social measures. It was characteristic of his ever lively mind that he took up therapeutic work with marital problems long before such work achieved its current popularity, and from this experience he wrote in 1967 *Marital Tensions*, one of the most widely valued books on this subject today.

For the many members of the staff who joined the Tavistock after the war, it was a special pleasure to have Henry Dicks as a senior colleague. He shared to the full all the new ideas that were then emerging and so was a splendid bridge between the old and the new. He was a member of the Council of the original Clinic for thirty years, and it was through his wise foresight that that body was preserved; and so he was particularly happy when through the Clinic's continued existence it was able to claim a substantial legacy from a grateful patient. His long and intimate experience inevitably led this Council to invite him to write for its jubilee in 1970 *Fifty Years at the Tavistock Clinic*.

Henry Dicks was a remarkably gifted, productive and rounded person. His outstanding natural abilities had been given a fortunate background for their development—intellectual, artistic, cultural and athletic (he played tennis for Bart's as a student) and he used them to the full. What made these gifts so greatly appreciated were his personal qualities. Imbued with an active concern for all his friends, colleagues, students and patients, he radiated an urbane humorous *joie de vivre* which evoked universal affection and admiration. These qualities made him a notable contributor in conflict situations when wisdom, tolerance and a far-sighted vision were needed, and he responded by giving a great deal of his time and energy to many professional and scientific bodies in most of which he served as a senior officer. He was Chairman of the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society and a member of the Society's Council. He was also a member of the Council of the National Association for Mental Health and the World Federation of Mental Health; and he was Chairman of the Training Committee on Marital Dynamics of the Family Planning Association. For twenty years he served in various capacities in the Royal Medico-Psychological Association before being its President in 1967–68.

No one with such gifts and qualities so effectively used on behalf of so many could avoid leaving a painful sense of loss. All who were privileged to work with him mourn a great friend, a brilliant and cultured mind, and a loyal consistent ally in so many of the struggles that beset medical psychology during the past fifty years.

It was characteristic of Henry Dicks that all his gifts and personal qualities were also shown in the devoted enjoyment he had with his wife and family. To his widow, Maud, his four children and five grandchildren will go a deep sympathy in their loss and a profound gratitude for what he gave.

J. D. SUTHERLAND

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125077301129 Published online by Cambridge University Press