

from the colonial field was as co-editor of a seven-volume history of *The Army Air Forces in World War II* (1948-56). He had served from major to lieutenant colonel in the air corps during that conflict.

Craven's accomplishments as a scholar led him to be elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society. His election to AAS—'an honor that I much appreciate and accept'—took place at the 1970 annual meeting. He was nearing the end of his academic career, however, and never became active in the Society's affairs.

John B. Hench

GEORGE EDMUND GIFFORD, JR.

One of the penalties of growing old is seeing good friends pass away one by one. Such an unhappy experience for me, and for all of us, is the loss of Dr. George Edmund Gifford, Jr., in the prime of his career. He died on February 4, 1981, at the age of fifty, of the complications of influenza. We first met many years ago at a meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, and were immediately congenial. We had an interest in common in the history of medicine, in natural history, and in book collecting. We had many long 'bull sessions' over the years on all these subjects plus his specialty, psychiatry, which interested me much more than my gynecology interested him.

He was born and raised in Cecil County, Maryland, and always retained an affection for his birth state, though Boston and New England became his true love because of their remarkable intellectual advantages. To him Boston indeed became the 'hub of the universe.' He was graduated with honors from the University of Maryland and then went on to get his M.D. from that school. After an internship in Baltimore he saw

some service in the navy. After this was ended (he stayed in the reserves) he went to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston for a psychiatric residency. In 1961 he began the private practice of his specialty in Cambridge. He has been very active in his career and respected, working long and late hours. He has been on the faculty in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School since 1964. He has been on the staff of a number of hospitals. Although he wrote a number of book reviews of psychiatric publications he does not seem to have published much in his field. I considered him an excellent psychiatrist. Our long talks helped me in my practice. He was a born teacher.

His avocations were, perhaps, of more interest to us in AAS. He had a very active intellectual life outside his field. He was fascinated by the history of medicine and was a long-time, prominent member of the American Association for the History of Medicine. He acted as a very effective host and master of ceremonies when that society met in Boston in 1980. He had obtained an M.A. degree in the history of science at Harvard University in 1961, which shows how seriously he took his avocation. He had been very active in promoting the Boston Medical Library and the Countway Library at Harvard and founded the 'Leaders in American Medicine' series at the Countway. He was associated in 1977-78 with a special study session for the history of medicine at the National Institutes of Health. He became an associate professor at Boston University School of Medicine and head of the section on the history of medicine. It will be seen from this that George was a true medical humanist in the best Oslerian sense. In fact, he was an officer in the American Osler Society.

George wrote a number of books. One showed his continued loyalty to Maryland: *Cecil County Maryland, 1608-1850, as Seen by Some Visitors* (1974). In 1976 he published a very interesting work, *Physician Signers of the Declaration of Independence*. In 1978 there came a book more in his professional field, *Psychoanalysis, Psychotherapy and the New England Medical*

Scene 1894–1944. Finally there was *Dear Jeffie*, an edition of letters written by Jeffries Wyman, an anatomy professor at Harvard, to his son in the 1860s.

Another engrossing side of George's intellectual life was his great interest in natural history. He developed a fine collection of books on botany and birds which justified his election to the premier book collectors' club in the world, the Grolier Club of New York. He was also a member of the Club of Odd Volumes in Boston.

For a number of years he worked on the life and art of natural history illustrator Isaac Sprague, a collateral ancestor of mine. I am happy to report that his final work on the subject is now in press, to be published by David R. Godine. George made many contributions to the literature of his avocations.

All these dry facts merely indicate a great energy. How he had time to do all he did while practicing psychiatry fulltime is a mystery. This list of facts gives no inkling of his delightful, enthusiastic personality. He was always gracious, eager to talk, and yet an accomplished listener. He will be greatly missed by his patients, his colleagues, his friends, and those at the libraries he has fostered. He was a most enthusiastic member of the American Antiquarian Society, to which he was elected in April 1976, and was always eager to cooperate with its work in any way possible.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to his lovely wife, Laura, and their three children, Elizabeth, Laura, and George Edmund III. The loss of so young a spouse and father is a real tragedy.

Gordon W. Jones

ALEXANDER ORR VIETOR

Alexander Orr Vietor, map curator and maritime historian, was born in New York City on November 13, 1913. He was a 1936 graduate of Yale and returned to his alma mater in

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