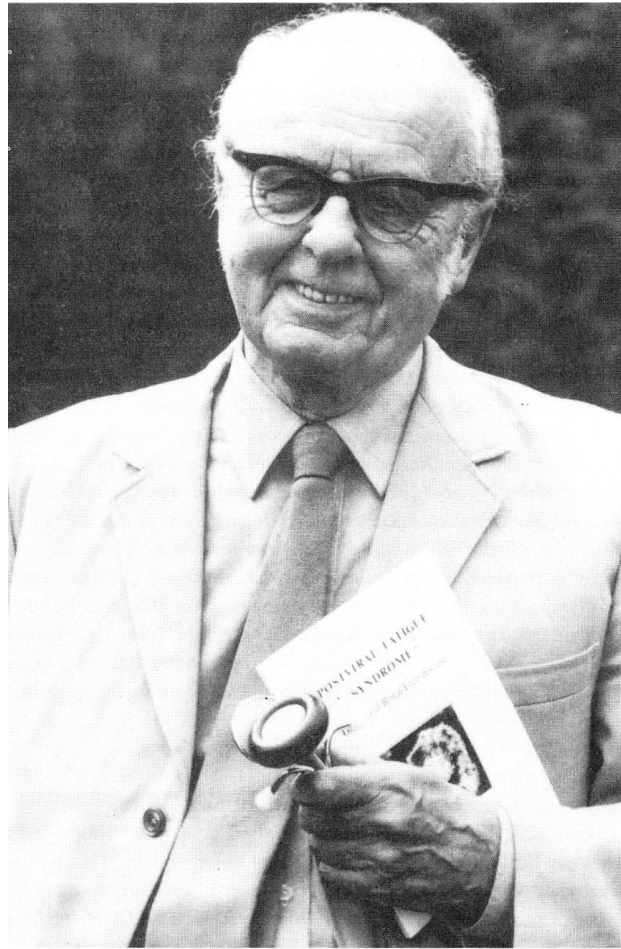


## Dr. A. Melvin Ramsay



*The late A. Melvin Ramsay*

Dr. Ramsay was born in Preston, Lancashire, in 1901.

He was educated at the Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, and proceeded to Aberdeen University where he graduated MA in 1923 and MB, ChB in 1926.

From 1926 to 1935 he was in general practice in South Africa and then returned to the United Kingdom to enter hospital practice at Fulham Hospital.

He was transferred to the North Western Fevers Hospital in 1937 and went on to become Deputy Medical Superintendent. He was involved in the instruction of nurses and undergraduate medical students in the practical principles of the management of infectious diseases.

In 1939, he received the degree of MD (Aberdeen) with a thesis on the Clinical, Epidemiological and Bacteriological Findings in 1205 cases of Puerperal Sepsis.

In 1947, the North Western Fevers Hospital was taken over by the Royal Free Hospital and Dr. Ramsay became consultant Physician to the Infectious Diseases Department.

He was also consultant in smallpox to the Ministry of Health and Lecturer in infectious diseases to the University of London. He later became Lecturer and Examiner in infectious diseases for postgraduates who were training for the Diploma of Public Health. He had written extensively on infectious disease and was co-author of a textbook on the subject.

The earliest cases of a new and extremely puzzling type of infection were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Department at Hampstead in the Spring of 1955. In July, this outbreak spread to the main body of the Royal Free Hospital and was responsible for around 300 cases before terminating in November. The infection became known as "Royal Free Disease".

Dr. Ramsay presented papers on the subject at international conferences in Madrid (1958) and Vienna (1965). Between 1971 and 1974, he was President of the Association for the Study of Infectious Diseases (now the British Society for the Study of Infection).

Dr. Ramsay was very active in the organization of a symposium on the subject of "Epidemic Neuromyasthenia" held at the Royal Society of Medicine in April 1978 and shared the chairmanship.

He was a member of the Study Group on the subject of "Myalgic Encephalomyelitis" since its inception in 1978.

Dr. Ramsay, much loved by patient or physician and all who had the privilege to meet him, died a few weeks prior to the First World Symposium on M.E. and the production of this paper that he was to present at Cambridge. Dr. Ramsay was instrumental in encouraging the 1990 Cambridge Symposium.

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### **The Clinical and Scientific Basis of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.**

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