William C. Menninger, M.D.

WILLIAM C. MENNINGER, a member of our Editorial Advisory Board since PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY's beginning in 1950, died on Tuesday, September sixth, at his home in Topeka, Kansas. The cause of his death was cancer. As reported to our readers last spring, Doctor Will was discovered to have cancer in December of 1965, was treated for it in Rochester, Minnesota; and by the late spring of this year, the prognosis appeared favorable. But cancer reappeared in a painful and devastating form in the late summer, offering no opportunity for further treatment. In view of the pain following the new outbreak, Dr. Will's early death is regarded as a blessing by his friends.

William C. Menninger was born in 1899, the third son of C. F. Menninger, M.D. While still in his teens, he enlisted as an Army private in the first World War, winning his commission as a second lieutenant before the war was over. After being graduated from Washburn University in 1919, he entered the Cornell University College of Medicine, in New York City, from which he was graduated in 1924. His medical and surgical internships were taken at Bellevue Hospital from 1924 through 1925, after which he returned to Topeka to join his father and brother. In 1927 he spent some time studying psychiatry at Saint Elizabeths Hospital in Washington.

The Menninger Clinic was established in the early 1920's by Doctor Will's father and his brother, Doctor Karl, when the latter returned from medical school and special training in psychiatry. Doctor Karl's interest led to the special practice of psychiatry by the Clinic. From 1926 onward, it was the three Menninger's, and then later the Menninger brothers, who developed the Menninger Clinic, and from the early 1940's, the Menninger Foundation. In addition to the basic clinical services of the Foundation both to in-patients and out-patients, the work of research, of education, and of social outreach has become an integral part of the entire operation. Consultative services are given to many public and other institutions. More than eight hundred employees serve the Foundation today. The School of Psychiatry
is the largest in the country.

Serving as President of the Menninger Foundation at the time of his death, Doctor Will gave the largest amount of his schedule to public interpretation of its work, to securing support for its educational, research and preventive activities and its buildings; and far beyond the interests of the Foundation as such, in interpreting the needs of the mentally ill both to the general public and especially to legislators throughout the nation. On invitation, Doctor Will addressed legislators in twenty-seven states on behalf of improved care and treatment of the mentally ill.

One of Doctor Will's most important services was rendered during the Second World War, when he served, in the Office of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, as Director of the Neuro-Psychiatry Consultants Division. In effect, this post put him in charge of developing and administering Army psychiatric services, which of necessity had mostly to be manned by persons with little or no formal training in psychiatry. The excellence of the Army's psychiatric service during this emergency period was due in no small measure to Doctor Will's genius for organization, education, and indeed inspiration of other people.

He was diligent and faithful in serving the important national organizations of his profession, including service as President of four of them, two of which were the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychoanalytic Association. He spent many years on the governing board of the American College of Physicians, and served as first vice-president. He also gave time as officer or board member to many other national groups in the cause of which he felt psychiatry had some responsibility, including the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the National Council on Alcoholism, the National Recreation Association, and the American Child Guidance Foundation. In addition to his service on our own Editorial Advisory Board, he was also on the professional board of the Academy of Religion and Mental Health.

From the time he became an Eagle Scout, he gave special time and attention to the Boy Scout movement both locally and nationally. He served on the national Executive Board and also on several national committees, and was awarded the Silver Buffalo. He was the recipient of many honorary degrees including Doctor of Science, Doctor of Letters, and Doctor of Laws; and received many other awards, literally too numerous to mention here.

While he was a medical student in New York City, Doctor Will gave serious thought to the possibility of becoming a medical missionary, and participated in what was then called the Student Volunteer Movement. Attending a conference of this Movement at Bear Mountain, N.Y., he met another delegate, Catharine Wright, who was then at work upon a master's degree program in religious education under the joint auspices of Union Theological Seminary and of Teachers College of Columbia University. This friendship was pursued, and the marriage of Will and Cay took place in 1925. During the very extensive travels that Doctor Will undertook, especially for the past ten or fifteen years, he was accompanied by his wife.

Doctor Will is survived by his wife and three sons, all of whom are related to the Menninger Foundation. Doctor Roy and Doctor Walter are both staff psychiatrists, while Philip is director of development services.

Doctor Will believed that a serious cultivation of hobbies was good not only for mental health but also for efficiency in one's job. His own principal hobby was stamp collecting, from which he