

# Allister M. Macmillan

*June 20, 1909 — August 13, 1958*

Allister Miles Macmillan, who died on August 13, 1958, of a coronary attack, had been associated with the Stirling County Study of Cornell University since 1950 and with the Yorkville Study of Cornell University Medical College since the fall of 1956. During the latter year, he acted as the chief administrative officer for both projects. In this position he showed his great abilities as a leader in a diversified group of investigators from the fields of social and medical sciences. His grasp of a wide variety of problems and his interest in all aspects of study in the broad field of human behavior made him a valuable member of the Medical College and especially of the Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Macmillan was born in Boiestown, New Brunswick, on June 20, 1909. After two years at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, he worked for fourteen years in the McLennan Foundry and Machine Works, advancing to the position of manager of the firm's car sales and service department. During World War II he served in the Canadian Army in Nova Scotia and later in North Africa and Italy. He received various promotions and was discharged in April, 1946, in the confirmed rank of lieutenant-colonel, having recovered from his wounds after a year in various hospitals. He then returned to college, receiving his B.A. in psychology in 1947, his B.Ed. degree in 1948, and his M.A. in psychology from Acadia University in 1949. In 1954 he obtained his Ph.D. from Cornell University. In the summer of 1949 he began social research in Digby County and in 1950 became a member of the staff of the Stirling County Study. In 1956 Dr. Macmillan was appointed senior research associate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Cornell University, and in 1957 Associate Professor of Sociology in Psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College.

In 1939, he married Lydia Coral Bigelow, and they had five children whose ages, at the time of his death, ranged from one to seventeen.

His many administrative duties did not give him as much opportunity for research as he would have liked. His publications in the field of social science, especially as they applied to basic knowledge of mental health and social psychiatry, reveal his wide knowledge of his field and his sound attitude toward the new sociological developments in medicine in general and in psychiatry particularly. His cheerfulness, his constant willingness to assume administrative burdens and his ability to understand his colleagues and to work with them soon made him a valuable and greatly esteemed member of the Department of Psychiatry. His loss is deeply felt.