

# Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, 70, Dies; Leader in Treating Alcoholism

Special to The New York Times

GREENWICH, Conn., April 2 —Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, a psychiatrist and an authority on the treatment of alcoholism, died today, apparently of a heart attack, in Greenwich Hospital. He was 70 years old. His home was at 215 Milbank Avenue and his office at 49 Lake Avenue.

Dr. Tiebout was one of the first psychiatrists to endorse unequivocally Alcoholics Anonymous as an agent of recovery from alcoholism, which he called a disease of the body, mind and spirit.

"He understood the alcoholic and the problem of alcoholism more profoundly than any other nonalcoholic," an associate said. "He was 20 years ahead of the time in expounding the theory that alcoholism was a disease.

"He used to maintain that it was necessary to surrender to a higher power to get relief—a principle of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was necessary, he said, for the alcoholic to get rid of egotism."

In a speech before the 1955 convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in St. Louis, Dr. Tiebout told recovered alcoholics that they could not hope to remain sober if they became too proud simply because they were no longer drunkards. He declared that "ego control" would continue to be necessary for A. A. members.

A trustee of Alcoholics An-

onymous since 1957, Dr. Tiebout was a former president of the National Committee on Alcoholism. He helped form the Connecticut Commission on Alcoholism and was its vice chairman from 1952 to 1957. He was a former chairman of the American Psychiatric Association's committee on alcoholism.

He was born in Brooklyn. He received a B.S. degree from Wesleyan University in 1917 and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1921.

Early in his career Dr. Tiebout joined the staff of the Westchester Division, New York Hospital, in White Plains.

Dr. Tiebout was a member of the advisory panel on mental health and alcoholism for the World Health Organization in Geneva from 1954 to 1959.

He was a fellow of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. He was a former president of the Connecticut Society of Psychiatry and Neurology, of the New York Psychiatric Society and of the Society of Psychopathology and Psychotherapy.

Surviving are his widow, the former Ethel M. Mills; 2 sons, Charles M. and Harry M. Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. P. Ross Warn; a sister, Mrs. Spencer Reeder, and 10 grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held here Tuesday at 2 P.M. in the Second Congregational Church.

The New York Times

Published: April 3, 1966

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