

MAX REISS, AIDED MENTAL PATIENTS

Head of Endocrine Studies
at State School Is Dead

Dr. Max Reiss, who founded and directed the neuroendocrine research unit at the Willowbrook (S.I.) State School for the mentally retarded, died Monday of an embolism at Wolfeboro, N.H., while on vacation. He was 70 years old and lived at 350 Richmond Terrace, New Brighton, S.I.

Dr. Reiss was a pioneer in the development of methods for the extraction of hormones from animal glands and the study of their actions. He was president and a founder of the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology.

He was born May 1, 1900, in Stanislau, Austria, and received his medical degree from the German University in Prague in 1925. He earned a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Bristol, England, in 1951.

In the nineteen-twenties, Dr. Reiss worked in the Swiss Alps in a village maintained for cretins. In the nineteen-thirties he did research in Sweden and Germany, and made several lecture tours to Russia. In 1939 he went to Bristol to direct the endocrinological department of the Burden Neurological Institute. He served the British Army in World War II.

In 1946 he opened the research department of Bristol Mental Hospitals, studying endocrine imbalance in mental patients and treating many patients with hormone therapy. For three years he was consultant to the British War Office.

In 1957 he was invited to New York by the Department of Mental Hygiene to start the research unit at Willowbrook. There, as in his other laboratories, he supplemented investigation of patients with animal studies. He published more than 200 papers in endocrinology.

His widow, the former Jean M. Halkerston, survives.