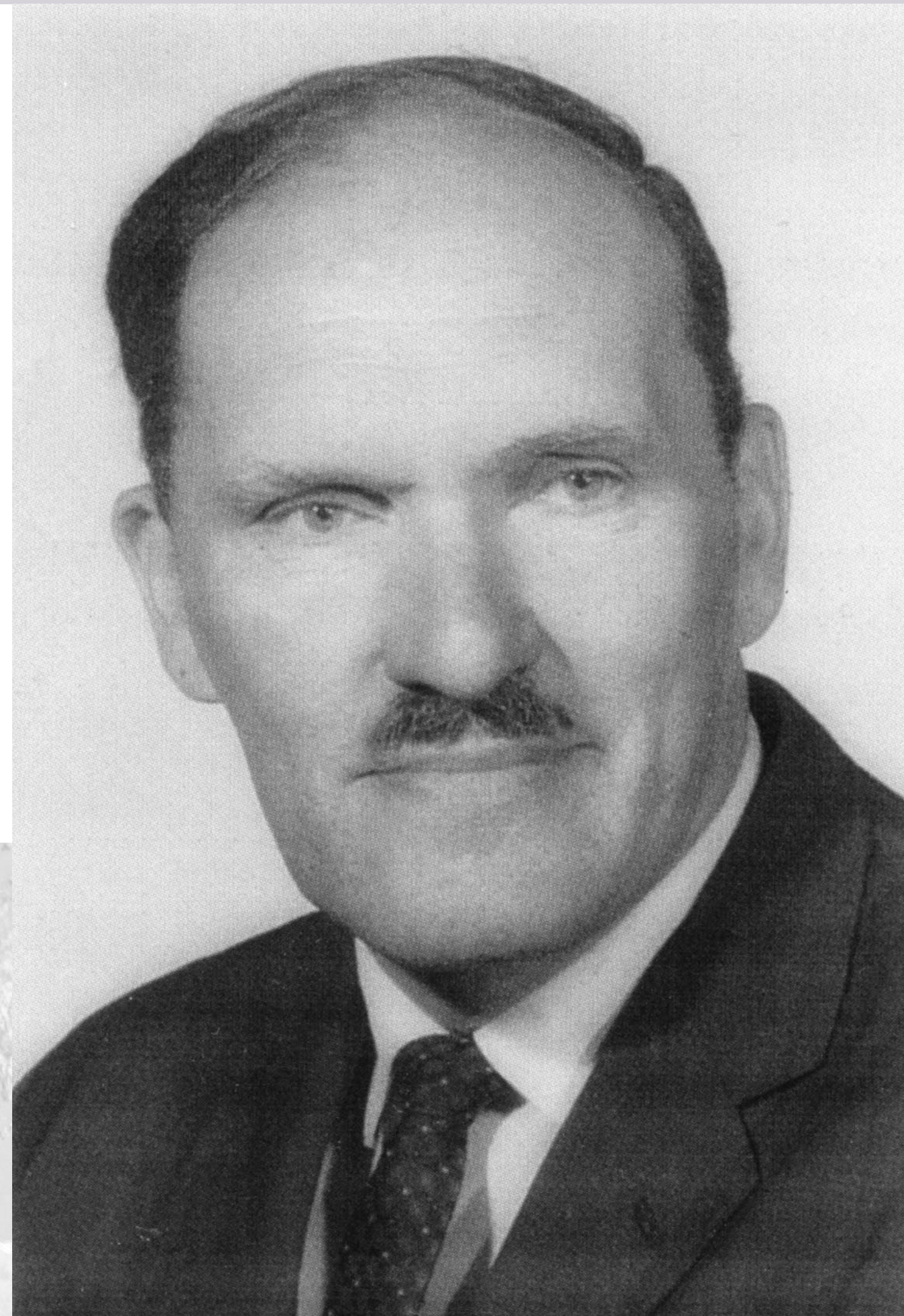


Victor Szyrynski

(1913-2007)

Psychiatrist



Dr. Victor Szyrynski's research and clinical work focused on community and family psychiatry, students' mental health, and pastoral psychiatry for clergymen of all denominations. His new diagnostic techniques in child psychiatry aroused interest in many countries.

Victor Szyrynski was born of Polish parents in St. Petersburg, Russia. After spending his early childhood in Finland, he moved with his family to Poland. In 1938, he obtained his M.D. degree in psychiatry from Warsaw University. Arrested for underground activity against the Soviet occupiers at the beginning of the war, he was imprisoned in Wilno and Moscow until released under the Polish Soviet agreement of 1941. He subsequently served as officer as well as neurologist and psychiatrist in the Polish Armed Forces in the Middle East and Africa, and was then appointed by the Polish Government in Exile senior inspector in charge of education and mental hygiene for Polish Scouts in Africa.

After the war, he completed his graduate studies in England and was invited to teach psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, where he obtained his Ph.D. Gaining specialist qualifications in psychiatry and neurology from the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, he was promoted to full professor of psychophysiology in 1956 and psychotherapy in 1958. Having occupied various clinical positions in Ottawa hospitals since 1949, he became head of the Department of Psychiatry at the Ottawa General Hospital in 1964. He was also director of the interdenominational Centre for Pastoral Psychiatry at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, and senior consultant at the Royal Canadian Air Force Hospital in charge of neuropsychiatric service. He taught for over two decades at the Canadian Police College.

Dedicated to Polish Canadian community organizations, Szyrynski was among others chairman of the Canadian branch of the Polish Institute of Arts and Science in America, and member of the Polish Research Institute. A Scoutmaster, he was active in the Polish Scouts movement.

An authority in his field, Dr. Szyrynski was a member of the most prestigious Canadian, British and American medical associations, as well as numerous committees concerned with mental health.

He was recipient of the Confederation Medal of Canada, Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Order of St. Gregory the Great, Gold Medal of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, USA, Officer's and Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, and the Polish Silver Cross of Merit with swords.

Photos from top left clockwise:

• Victor Szyrynski • V. Szyrynski at the National Defense Hospital in Montreal • With Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last President of the Polish Government in Exile • V. Szyrynski, scoutmaster
All photos – family archives