Women’s groups were rightly heartened by the Labour Government’s decision that all future legislation would be scrutinised for its effects on women’s issues. A similar approach to adolescents seems overdue. Even the recently published National Service Framework for Mental Health (Department of Health, 1999) refers to ‘working age adults’. Does that include 16- and 17-year-olds?

Reference

*Joe McDonald, Consultant Psychiatrist in Adolescent Mental Health, Anthony Ross, Community Nurse (Adolescent Mental Health), Elizabeth Taylor, Community Nurse (Adolescent Mental Health), Allan Brownrigg, Social Worker (Adolescent Mental Health), Barnes Unit, Adolescent Mental Health Team, Durham Road, Sunderland SR5 4AF

obituaries

Walter E. Barton
Formerly Professor Emeritus of Dartmouth Medical School, Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA

Walter Barton was born 29 July 1906 in Oak Park, Illinois, the oldest son of Alfred J. and Bertha (Kalish) Bartusch. He received his MD from the University of Illinois. He spent his internship at the West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, Illinois and then moved to the Worcester State Hospital in Massachusetts for his residency in psychiatry. He stayed on to gain hospital administration training and because he had met Elsa, then superintendent of nurses, his future wife. In June 1938 he attended the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, England for further neurological training.

His academic career included faculty teaching appointments at Smith College School of Social Work and at the Medical Schools of Tufts, George Washington, Georgetown, and Boston University, where he was Clinical Professor of Psychiatry. He also served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Faculty, Inc. When he ‘retired’ in 1974 he joined the Faculty of Dartmouth Medical School and was actively teaching there until his death.

Walter Barton was president of several major psychiatric organisations in the USA. He was honoured by being elected a Life Fellow by the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Physicians, as well as elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists of England and of the Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. He received a number of prestigious awards including the Salomon Medal for Achievement in Psychiatry by the New York Academy of Medicine in December 1974 and in 1975 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Psychiatric Association. In 1975 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by the University of Illinois Medical School, and in 1983 the American Psychiatric Association awarded him their first Administrative Psychiatric Award for outstanding contributions in the field. During his career in the 1930s he was in the Massachusetts National Guard and saw active service in the Second World War in the Philippines, for which he was awarded the Legion of Honour. In the 1950s and 1960s he was appointed the Superintendent of Boston State Hospital in Massachusetts which he transformed into a leading service, teaching and research centre. There, through the Barton Mental Health Center he conducted one of the first community demonstration programmes out of which grew the Community Mental Health Movement.

From Boston he moved to Washington, DC and from 1963–1974 became the Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association with great success. In the 1960s he helped to fashion the Veterans Administration’s Physical Medicine Rehabilitation Program and led scientific exchanges to Japan, Scotland, Mexico, Scandinavia and the former USSR. His work has been published extensively, including 12 books and over 180 articles.

Walter Barton died on 26 January 1999, aged 92. He is survived by two children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Gail M. Barton

Matthew Radzan
Formerly Honorary Consultant, Bexley Hospital Kent

Dr Matthew Radzan (Hugh) died aged 85 on 1 May 1999 from a myocardial infarction at this home in Bexley Kent. Hugh was born on the 5 January 1914 in Bethnal Green and lived in the London area most of his life. His father, an immigrant from Russia, settled in East London and followed his profession of jeweller and watchmaker. Hugh attended Raine’s School, Stepney.

He obtained his MB BS (Lon) in 1939 from King’s College, London, followed by a DPM in 1940. In 1971 he was elected FRCPsych. In the Second World War he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Middle East from 1939 to 1945 achieving the rank of Major (specialist psychiatrist).

His first civilian psychiatric appointment was to Hellingsly Hospital, Sussex and in 1948 he was appointed to Bexley Hospital, Kent. I met him in 1949 under happy circumstances and our association continued for a further 50 years until his recent death.

In those days Bexley Hospital, with over 2000 beds, served a large area of south-east London, to which was added an adjacent piece of Kent. The medical Superintendent then was Dr L. C. Cook whose Deputy was Dr Comerford. They were both distinctive characters and complemented each other in a way that led to a smooth running hospital. Many changes were taking place both in the...