

College Hospital, London, and qualified MRCS, LRCP in 1930. The next three to four years seem to have been spent achieving a veritable fistful of academic qualifications. In addition to the membership of the Royal Colleges of Ireland and London he took his Cambridge MB, BChir in 1934 and in the same year obtained the DPM (Eng). He was, incidentally, elected FRCPI in 1948 and FRCP in 1955.

Pilkington early on decided on a career in psychiatry and to this end trained at the Maudsley Hospital, London, where he had the exceedingly good fortune to be taught by two giants of English psychiatry, Professor Edward Mapother and Professor Sir Aubrey Lewis. During the 1939–45 War he served as a psychiatric specialist in the RAMC achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In the Army he came under the influence of Dr J. R. Rees, the Director of Army Psychiatry, another giant, albeit of a more gentle variety than his two previous mentors.

After demobilisation, Pilkington chose to exchange the cosseted comforts of academic psychiatry for the rigorous realities of mental hospital practice. After a period as Deputy Physician Superintendent at the Central Hospital, Warwick, he was appointed, in 1946, Physician Superintendent at Moorhaven Hospital, Devon, where his real life's work began.

This important chapter of his life is well-described in his presidential address to the Royal Medico-Psychological Association at its annual meeting in Plymouth on 10 July 1968. In lucid, and at times, lurid prose Pilkington illustrates how he was able to drag a backward and decrepit hospital out of the slough of despond into line with the most advanced mental hospitals of the post-War era, an era which has been termed, "The Golden Age of the British Mental Hospital". He writes, "Although the hospital was a 'modern' one compared with many, having been opened in 1891, the state of the buildings – wards, departments, the lot – was disgraceful, even dangerous; and tangled masses of coarse grass and evil-smelling weeds grew within the boundary walls of what were still known as "airing courts". Nor is this pen-picture of decrepitude and stagnation confined to the physical aspects of the hospital: the same could be applied to the morale of the staff, medical and nursing; to the state of nurse-training, and to the therapeutic opportunities, such as they were. As a further example of the aura of mediaevalism that obtained, Pilkington found to his horror that so absolute was his authority that no member of the nursing staff could marry without his express permission!

But the Golden Age was not to last. The last section of his address is headed, "The Years of Decline!", in which he describes the disastrous effects of the virtual death sentence imposed on the mental hospitals by the then Minister of Health, Mr Enoch

Powell. Ironically enough, the decline began with the implementation of the Mental Health Act, 1959, an Act which, in intent, was perhaps the most humane legislative instrument in the history of British psychiatry. The sense of bitter disappointment is well expressed in one of the last paragraphs of his address which, in the light of recent developments, has a prophetic tinge. He concludes, "Those who, like myself, have spent the major part of their careers in developing comprehensive community services based on their hospitals, cannot avoid the feeling, when their elimination is advocated, that an assault is threatened on the whole fabric of the service."

Despite his success in every department of his life, all who knew him, family and friends alike, pay tribute to his essential modesty. No better evidence of this endearing attribute could be found than his reply to a questionnaire circulated to all fellows of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. One of the questions posed was "Major Publications?", to which Pilkington replied, "Minor Publications only". It needs to be pointed out that, *inter alia*, Pilkington was the author of a successful history of Ashburton, Devon, now in its second edition. This slim, well-written and lavishly illustrated book is the outcome of over 40 years association with Ashburton and its environs.

In recognition of his invaluable services to the Plymouth area, Pilkington on his retirement from the NHS was elected Emeritus Consultant to the South West Regional Hospital Board.

Pilkington was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1974, but is survived by his son, Ronald, and three daughters.

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ROBERT ORTON, formerly Physician in Psychological Medicine, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Robert Orton, who died 8 December 1991, was born on 4 December 1914; he was the only son of a Bradford dentist. He read medicine at the University of Leeds where he graduated MB, ChB in 1938. During his house job in his home town he met the theatre sister who subsequently became his wife.

He started general practice in Blackburn but with war imminent he decided to finance his forthcoming marriage by working at Storrs Hall. From there he volunteered for military service and was soon a regimental medical officer in Lincolnshire. He was

then posted with his unit to Taunton but there, a hospital being formed for the Middle East needed a specialist. As a consequence of his Storrs Hall experience he became a reluctant psychiatrist.

After a spell on troop ships he spent the rest of the war in Cairo where he was part of the development of open psychiatry. It was here that he came under the influence of Colonel Alexander Kennedy whose psychiatric knowledge and clandestine activities he came to admire. He continued to develop his medical and neurological skills but became committed to scientific psychiatry. After the war he obtained his DPM and in 1947 his MD.

After a brief period in the academic department in Leeds during which he won the Gaskell Prize, he moved to Garlands, Carlisle, as deputy medical superintendent.

When Alexander Kennedy was appointed the first professor in Psychological Medicine in Newcastle he found Leslie Kiloh in St Mary's, Stanington, and Robert Orton in Garlands and promptly recruited them to join the department with that other neuro-psychiatrist, Henry G. Miller as associate physician. The sight of the gigantic Kennedy and the diminutive Orton advancing along the long Royal Victoria Infirmary corridor occasioned considerable mirth but they soon acquired a considerable reputation. Long before liaison psychiatry became fashionable they established a consultation service to the wards which was second to none.

Kennedy was more than a match for the young Miller but it was Robert Orton to whom the latter turned for commonsense psychiatry and to whom he entrusted the section on Psychiatric Disorders in his popular *Modern Medical Treatment*.

Orton quickly established a huge out-patient practice, both private and NHS, became much in demand in forensic cases and took an interest in delinquency, providing psychiatric support to a residential home for delinquent girls over many years.

When Kennedy was appointed to succeed Sir David Henderson in Edinburgh, Martin Roth arrived on the Newcastle scene. His brand of scientific psychiatry was rather different to the more pragmatic Ortonian philosophy.

Henry Miller, apart from founding the Society for the Abolition of Psychiatrists, was heard to say: "If you have a depressed patient send him to Orton who will treat him. If you have doubts send him to who will confirm your doubts".

Robert to some extent became marginalised in the academic department but continued to expand his clinical practice. Registrars enjoyed attachment to his firm because of the wealth of clinical material and his eagerness to share his experience. Few attached to him did not share his continuing friendship.

His participation in the social activities of the department and his sharing of the camaraderie of the coffee room ensured that his influence was felt by all who passed through the department.

With his "Asylum Officer" status he had always planned retirement at 60 years but collapse outside the Infirmary with a large coronary infarct advanced his plans.

He retired to Harrogate in his native Yorkshire and devoted himself to model engineering and horology. His only child, a daughter, graduated in Newcastle, is now a consultant anaesthetist and his granddaughter is considering a medical career. His wife survives him.

SYDNEY BRANDON

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

JOHN ALEXANDER AITKEN, Consultant Psychiatrist, Borocourt Hospital, Wyfold, Reading, Berkshire.

RICHARD GLANVILLE DAVIES, Retired Colonel, RAMC; 'Lavender Furlong', Swanmore Road, Swanmore, Hampshire.

MARGARET DUNCAN, Health Commission of Victoria, Pleasant View Centre, 131 Wood Street, East Preston, Victoria 3072, Australia.

HERTA GRAZ, retired Consultant Psychotherapist; 56 Eton Court, Eton Avenue, London NW3.

HARRY NEUBAUER, Consultant Psychiatrist, Longwood House, The Bath Clinic, Claverton Down Road, Combe Down, Bath.

BIMAL KRISHNA SAHA, Consultant Psychiatrist, Frimley Park Hospital, Frimley, Surrey.

BERNARD LIONEL MARCUS TURNER, retired; Walks Hide, Tram Hill, Brill, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

HUGH DE BROE WARREN, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Bootham Park Hospital, York.

ARIANE GRISELDA MARGARET WISEMAN, retired; address unknown.

ARNOLD COLIN WOODMANSEY, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry, University of Sheffield.