

increasing involvement over the years in medico-legal work.

At Clifton College and Queen's College, Oxford, where he graduated BM Bch in 1957, he had the benefit of a broad education, resulting in a life-long attachment to the classical tradition. His clinical studies were at the London Hospital, and these were soon followed by a choice of psychiatry, with first appointments at Long Grove Hospital, Epsom. He became a senior registrar in the general hospital setting of Sefton Hospital, Liverpool, and this return to his home society provided the opportunity for an innovative study of the social and ecological correlates of attempted suicide for which he was awarded the DM in 1967. Unfortunately – since he did not find writing easy – the work was never published.

He was elected a foundation member of the College in 1971 and proceeded to the fellowship in 1980.

In 1966, he was appointed consultant to the Salford hospitals, with mental hospital beds in Manchester. Here, he joined a comprehensive service which I had been developing, and for the next 22 years, we had a very happy and productive working partnership. He threw himself into the huge volume of clinical work with enormous enthusiasm, gaining the loyalty of many associated staff. He was also in much demand for private practice, particularly forensic, establishing many links with the legal profession who appreciated his integrity and the endless pains he would take to see that all aspects of a case were fully explored. His experience of accident cases was distilled into a fairly unique follow-up study, published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in 1985, which has never had the attention it deserved. Michael's capacity for seeing patients was inexhaustible, and he cheerfully absorbed much of the clinical load of our joint firm, as I was increasingly drawn into *Journal* and other outside activities. He also worked hard for voluntary organisations, particularly as consultant for an after-care hostel. He was a gifted clinical teacher, conveying his enthusiasm for psychiatry to both students and postgraduate trainees. As Editor, I valued his advice on manuscripts, particularly in his special areas of interest – automatic behaviour, transsexualism, and post-traumatic states.

Michael was unsympathetic to the changes of the 1980s in the NHS and social services, and left Salford in 1988 to become Superintendent of Bowden House Hospital, Harrow, but was not comfortable either with private medical administration, and so moved into full-time medico-legal practice. He had done a potentially important study of post-traumatic stress reactions in police, but this remained unfinished.

Throughout his adult life, Michael had struggled with weight problems, and it was the

post-operative complications of an attempt to deal surgically with this which caused his untimely death at the age of 60. His wife, Evelyn, is herself a doctor and was in charge of student health at Salford University; he is also survived by his three children and first grandchild. Michael had a huge appetite for life, in every sense, and was a generous host, pleased to be able to show guests his unique collection of pig artefacts and wide representation of original art. The great affection in which he was held was indicated by the very large numbers who came to his home for Jewish memorial prayers.

HUGH FREEMAN

John Varley, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, Birmingham Children's Hospital



Dr John Varley (FRC Psych 1978) died on 15 October 1993 from the sudden recurrence of an illness which had been troubling him over the previous year. Born in 1928, he had only recently taken early retirement from his post as consultant child psychiatrist at the Birmingham Children's Hospital to which he was appointed in July 1964. While initially his duties were confined to the George Road Child

Guidance Clinic, his appointment led shortly to the opening of the in-patient unit for children with psychiatric problems at the hospital, this being the first such unit in the West Midlands region where no such facilities had previously existed.

Before taking up his chosen specialty, John Varley had become a well-qualified doctor of wide experience. After graduating from Oxford in 1955 – having done his clinical training at University College Hospital – he undertook house officer appointments in several specialties over the next four years, obtaining his MRCP (UK) in 1959 (he was elected FRCP in 1987). He then worked at the Maudsley Hospital as senior house officer, registrar and senior registrar from October 1959 until July 1964 when he was appointed as consultant child psychiatrist to the West Midlands region.

His experience in children's psychiatry began in April 1962 while working as registrar with Dr Kenneth Cameron and later as senior registrar at the Brixton Child Guidance Centre under the supervision of Dr Wilfred Warren and returning, once again, to the children's department of the Maudsley Hospital.

John's wide medical experience undoubtedly led to his eclectic and pragmatic approach to child psychiatry. Although at some time during his period at the Maudsley he underwent a period of Jungian training, this did not seem to have biased his thinking or practice in any other particular direction.

John Varley was a very modest man who undoubtedly under-rated his abilities. His major contribution to his specialty was as a teacher and the conscientious care he devoted towards his patients. Some of these were nothing if not difficult to deal with. Many presented very special problems. Thus, a number of his colleagues and other non-medical members of university staff have ample cause to be grateful for the care and attention he gave to their children's and their own attendant problems.

The other side of his professional life was as a teacher in which vocation he was particularly successful. Thus, in addition to his consultant appointment he was appointed senior lecturer in child psychiatry in the University of Birmingham and was also chairman of the Sub-Committee for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry from June 1977 to March 1987. In all, 34 senior registrars in psychiatry in the Birmingham region trained with him during these years, many of whom became consultants in child psychiatry in the West Midlands and elsewhere. This, perhaps, was the principal advancement of his specialty that John Varley achieved.

Whereas I knew him well both as a friend and colleague I always found him a very private person, not given to talking about himself or his background. Thus, when asked to say a few words on the occasion of his retirement, I found myself at something of a loss. In public, and at clinical meetings he seldom spoke but when he did so it was always to the point. Some sometimes regarded him as being a trifle cynical – indeed his sense of humour often had a sardonic quality which was, however, never malicious.

He was a keen but not very successful fisherman. Trout, yes – but after much perseverance the one salmon he nearly landed on the Wye was botched by the interference of a well-meaning fellow angler who misguidedly grasped the line in an effort to help him land the fish, which interference, however, led to its escape. Characteristically John seems to have felt no rancour at this unfortunate incident; if he did so, he kept it to himself. He and his wife, Georgina, who outlives him, were delightful hosts. They had no children of their own which may go some way to explaining John's attitude to those others to whom he gave so much professional and loving care.

W. H. TRETOWAN

Louis Zinkin, formerly Consultant Psychotherapist at St George's Hospital, London

Louis was brought up in London and educated at City of London School, proceeding to Lincoln College Oxford and then to the West London Hospital. He qualified MRCS Eng LRCP Lond in 1952. Those of us who knew him later in his life were not surprised to learn that he stepped off the career ladder to pursue an idiosyncratic interest and had spent sometime as a ship's surgeon in the Far East. He returned to London to train, first as a psychiatrist at Napsbury Hospital, and later as an analyst with the Society of Analytical Psychologists. He obtained the MRCPsych in 1973 and was elected FRCPsych in 1987. In his late 40s, and already a training analyst with the Society of Analytical Psychologists, he once again demonstrated his capacity to think and do the unexpected, when he began a further training and a further analysis, this time with the Institute of Group Analysis. In the mid-'70s he was chairman of the Medical Committee of the British Psychological Society and in the '80s was Treasurer of the Society of Analytic Psychologists. In 1979 he came to St George's as Consultant in Psychotherapy and was a much admired and valued colleague for nearly ten years until his retirement in 1988.

Louis was a person with a truly original mind and a most engaging curiosity about not only psychoanalytic ideas, but also unfashionable areas of intellectual exploration which some of his more academically conventional colleagues found disconcerting. His interest in Gnosticism and the Holy Grail, for example, could not be regarded as close to mainstream NHS psychotherapy or psychiatry. Despite this taste for the unusual, or perhaps enhanced by it, he wrote papers which were indeed original but also extremely accessible, even for less experienced psychotherapists and those who did not share his Jungian training.

Even after his retirement from the NHS, Louis led a very active professional life both as a clinician and a writer. Despite severe visual impairment he was determined to continue with his work. He remained an enthusiastic teacher in both the Institute of Group Analysis and the Society of Analytic Psychology, giving papers, conducting workshops, and supervising students right up until the day of his death. He was greatly helped in this by his wife Hindle, herself a psychotherapist, and he sometimes spoke in these last few years when he was no longer able to read, of rediscovering the pleasure of having someone read aloud to him. The evident happiness of their marriage was one of the things which made them most agreeable friends. He died suddenly on 13 March 1993. Hindle survives him with their two children Ben and Joanna.

PATRICIA HUGHES