

Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

MICHAEL ATKINSON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, University Hospital of South Manchester and Senior Lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Manchester

Michael Atkinson died on 5 July 1991, aged 63; he had retired early in 1983 because of ill health. He studied medicine in Leeds where he graduated MB, ChB in 1951. In 1962 he gained the MRCP (Ed) and was elected to the Fellowship in 1978.

He decided early on in his career to specialise in psychiatry and to this end he was appointed registrar in psychiatry at Storthes Hall Hospital, Kirkburton, Huddersfield, and senior registrar at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield. His inclination towards academic psychiatry was rewarded by appointments in the university psychiatric departments at Leeds, Newcastle upon Tyne, and finally Manchester where he served as Consultant Psychiatrist to the University Hospital of South Manchester and senior lecturer at the University of Manchester. He gained the DPM in 1957, was elected MRCPsych in 1972 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1979.

Atkinson was the author of several papers on psychiatry: his particular research interest lay in the personalities of relatives of people with schizophrenia and the statistics relating to suicide.

ARTHUR GRAHAM, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist Warlingham Park and The Mayday Hospital, Croydon



Dr Graham, consultant psychiatrist emeritus to Warlingham Park and The Mayday Hospitals, Croydon died, aged 83, on 5 March 1992.

Arthur Graham was born in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork and educated at Newtown School, Waterford. The second of four children, he spent some years helping in the family

business until a small legacy enabled him to break with tradition and study medicine in Trinity College, Dublin. He rowed for Trinity and was a “Knight of

the Campanile”. Dr Graham qualified in 1939 with honours in physiology, and was appointed houseman to Monkstown Hospital. Financial considerations dictated entry to general practice in Newtown Stewart, Northern Ireland in 1940, the year he married Hazel Rowe of Wexford.

Throughout six years as a busy and successful general practitioner, Dr Graham’s interest in psychiatric disorders continued to develop and in 1946 he felt able to pursue this. He was appointed Junior Hospital Medical Officer to Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon, and progressed steadily to Senior Registrar grade, holding appointments to St Olave’s and the West End (later St Marylebone) Hospitals. He obtained his DPM in 1949, underwent Jungian training analysis, and in 1954 was awarded his MD for his thesis on group psychotherapy and its extensions. In 1958 he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist to Warlingham Park and the Mayday Hospitals. He steadily built up his units in these hospitals, and was particularly interested in young offenders and medical-legal aspects of psychiatry. In 1971 Dr Graham was elected to a Foundation Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He retired in 1974 and participated actively in private practice for some years.

Dr Graham was active in administration and was regarded as a tranquil and effective committee member and chairman. He was Secretary of Cane Hill Medical Advisory Committee, Vice-President of the Association of Medical Secretaries, and spent two terms as Head Administrator and Chairman of the Medical Staff Committee at Warlingham Park. In 1972 he was seconded to the Hospital Advisory Service; a letter from the Director records that he was highly regarded for his frank but non-threatening approach.

Throughout his life, Dr Graham thoroughly enjoyed young people and was a gifted and enthusiastic teacher both of under- and postgraduate students. His countless lectures to professional and lay bodies were meticulously prepared, original and amusing. He published a number of papers, monographs and a book on depression and anxiety. Despite a substantial intellect, his primary interests in meticulous patient care and teaching probably impeded his research output.

A dry account of Dr Graham’s achievements gives little feeling for the man. He was liked and respected by colleagues, particularly because of his even handed