

**JOHN STEPHEN HORSLEY, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Clinic, Bradford, Yorkshire**

John Stephen Horsley, a foundation Fellow of the College, died at the age of 81 in Sheffield on 3 April 1986. He qualified from the London Hospital in 1932. As a student he distinguished himself as an athlete and, *inter alia*, captained the Blackheath Harriers.

He trained as a postgraduate at the Maudsley, following which he was appointed to the Kent County Mental Hospital where he was put in charge of the malaria unit for the treatment of general paralysis. Later, in 1935, he was appointed senior medical officer at the Dorset Mental Hospital and, which was most unusual in those days, appointed an honorary psychiatrist on the staff of Poole General Hospital. He was the first to introduce, and indeed, to coin the term 'narcoanalysis', a new form of prolonged narcosis.

Horsley was always in search of new horizons. Thus, in 1943, he became medical director of the Dorset child guidance service where he introduced what would be known today as 'family therapy'. In 1960 he turned his attention to social psychiatry in Sheffield's newly established section of social psychiatry, a position he held for the next 10 years. During this time he developed a multi-disciplinary unit for preventive psychiatry which included social workers, district nurses and midwives.

Even after his 'official' retirement, in 1970, Horsley in his indefatigable way translated himself to Bradford where for the next decade he served as consultant children's psychiatrist to the Bradford Area Health Authority.

**JAMES MCLAUGHLAN JOHNSTON, formerly Physician Superintendent, State Hospital, Carstairs, Scotland**

Dr James McLaughlan Johnston died on 7 May 1986, aged 87.

He was born and educated in Leith and studied medicine at Edinburgh University after service as a gunner in the 1914–1918 war. He trained in psychiatry at West Green Hospital in Dundee where he developed an interest in forensic psychiatry which led to his appointment as a medical officer in the Prison Medical Service at Wormwood Scrubs. From 1933 until 1936 he was on the staff of the State Institution at Rampton and then returned to Scotland as a Deputy Medical Commissioner of the General Board of Control for Scotland, a post which he held for 20 years except for a period of secondment during the war as the Hospital Medical Officer for the South East of Scotland responsible for hospital services for the civilian population and the allied forces in the area.

During his time as a Deputy Medical Commissioner he was responsible for the supervision of mentally ill and mentally handicapped people boarded out in the community and he became an authority on this traditional Scottish system of care, guiding and advising the local authorities in its administration. One can still find in Scotland some of the former guardians of individual patients who speak in most kindly terms of the visits Dr Johnston used to pay and of the

professional help and guidance they received from him.

In 1956 he returned to forensic psychiatry as the first Physician Superintendent of the combined State Mental Hospital and State Institution at Carstairs. This was a difficult task transforming what had been seen as prison establishments into an active psychiatric hospital despite the constraints of maximum security. He did this most successfully and was also able to work once again with the group of patients that he enjoyed working with most, the mentally handicapped offenders.

He was always ready and willing to share his considerable knowledge of forensic psychiatry and medical administration with his junior colleagues. He was a quiet and kindly man who retained the excellent manners and courtesy of his Edwardian upbringing and was liked and respected by his staff and patients. He retired in 1964 to Shetland, the land of his forebears, where he enjoyed fishing on his much favoured Spiggie Loch and both playing and studying Shetland folk music. He leaves a wife and four children, one of whom is a general practitioner near Edinburgh.

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**GEORGE MCCOULL, OBE, VRD, formerly Physician Superintendent, Prudhoe Hospital, Northumberland**

Dr George McCoull died on 6 September 1985 aged 86 years. From a medical family (both his father and grandfather were general practitioners in Prudhoe Village), he received his medical education at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1922 and proceeding MD in 1931.

George McCoull, as those who knew him will attest, was a man of vision, energy, tenacity and purpose—qualities which resulted in distinguished military and medical careers. His military career spanned two world wars and the three services. As a young man he volunteered for the Northumberland Fusiliers at the outbreak of the First World War, but was soon discharged after it was found that he was under age. Subsequently, he interrupted his medical studies to join the Royal Navy as a Surgeon Sublieutenant, eventually attaining the rank of Surgeon Captain. During the Second World War he served with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve where he was concerned with the health of airmen in the Indian Ocean. He participated in the famous Zeebrugge landing, survived the sinkings of HMS Swift and the Ark Royal, was mentioned in despatches in 1918 and awarded the military OBE in 1946. After the war he remained in the Volunteer Reserve, becoming its Senior Medical Officer, and was appointed Honorary Physician to King George VI and to our present Queen.

But it is in the field of mental handicap—his life's work—where his greatest achievements lie. After a period in general practice he followed his father as Medical Officer at Prudhoe Hospital, becoming Physician Superintendent in 1933, a post which he held for over 30 years until his retirement in 1965. Under his Superintendship Prudhoe Hospital achieved an international reputation for the model service it provided, attracting a stream of visitors. George McCoull continually strove to make Prudhoe the best possible home

for the people who had to live there, constantly improving the residential accommodation, introducing a range of day activities and specialist units. This necessary paternalism was matched by a progressive and innovative spirit. He firmly believed in community care for the majority of mentally handicapped people and that only those with constant medical and nursing needs should remain in hospital—a philosophy much in vogue today. To this end he was always moving towards more locally based services, encouraging development of satellite hospitals throughout the Northern Region and establishing widespread domiciliary services. Always concerned for parents and families, he took a keen interest in parents' groups, becoming the first President of the Northern Region of MENCAP, a role which he undertook with customary energy and enthusiasm.

His influence extended well beyond Prudhoe Hospital. He was a pivotal figure in planning services for mentally handicapped people in the Northern Region, Chairman of the Northern and Midland Division (1955–1958) and Chairman of the Mental Deficiency Section (1963–1966) of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. He was made a foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and was also a Fellow of the American Association of Mental Deficiency, on whose Council he served. Tireless in his professional career, immediately upon retirement he undertook a survey of all mentally handicapped people in hospitals in the Northern Region, personally collecting the data and examining nearly 10,000 individuals—a mammoth task which took five years, and resulted in a much acclaimed work for which he received the Burden Gold Medal and Research Prize in 1972. Despite the increasing vicissitudes of old age he retained a lively and active interest in the care of the mentally handicapped up to his death.

George McCoull will be remembered as a compassionate man who devoted his life to the care of mentally handicapped people and their families. It is all too easy these days with the emphasis on community care and when large institutions have become so unfashionable to overlook the achievements and pioneering work of men like him and forget that it is they who laid the foundations for today's new approaches to care.

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**ARTHUR POOL, formerly Medical Superintendent, The Retreat, York**

Dr Arthur Pool, a distinguished psychiatrist and former Medical Director of The Retreat, York, died on 29 August 1985 aged 83 years.

Dr Pool, the son of a police officer, was born in Liverpool and educated at Liverpool Collegiate where he was awarded a scholarship to study medicine. He graduated MB ChB with Honours from Liverpool University in 1924. After qualification, he held clinical appointments at several Liverpool hospitals before specialising in psychiatry. His first psychiatric appointment was at Rainhill County Mental Hospital where he served four years as a junior

medical officer before joining the staff of The Retreat as a senior medical officer. His considerable administrative abilities were soon recognised in his promotion to the position of Deputy Medical Superintendent.

In 1934 he was appointed Medical Superintendent to South Yorkshire Mental Hospital, Sheffield, and lecturer in mental diseases at the University of Sheffield. In 1938, he returned as Medical Superintendent to The Retreat where he nurtured the advancement of contemporary developments in psychological and physical treatments in conjunction with The Retreat's historical environmental and spiritual approach to care. After twelve years as Medical Superintendent, Dr Pool joined the National Health Service as Consultant Psychiatrist to Oldham and District General Hospital. Always alert to advances in psychiatric care, Dr Pool developed at Oldham a Community Service which included one of the earliest Day Care Units in Britain. Even after his retirement at 65, he continued in part-time work in Child Guidance Clinics at Oldham for several years. The breadth of Dr Pool's knowledge and experience, combined with his well remembered enthusiasm, facilitated his exceptionally varied career in psychiatry. Dr Pool, a committed Christian, viewed his devoted professional life as an expression and extension of his sincere religious beliefs.

He survived by his widow, Ellen, and his two daughters, Maureen and Joan, whose choice of careers as a doctor and a nurse reflect the influence of their remarkable father.

AMG

**The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

SAMAI ISAAC DAVIDSON, Shalvata Mental Health Centre, Tel Aviv University Medical School, Hod Hasharon, Israel.

MOHAMED KAMIL EL-KHOLY, retired, 7 Nazeeh Khalifa, Helipolis, Cairo, Egypt.

PHILIP IAN FORSYTH, formerly Clinical Director, State Hospital, Somerset, PA, USA.

ANTHONY GEOFFREY WILLIAM HOLMSHAW, Consultant Psychiatrist, East Anglian AHA.

Sir DESMOND ARTHUR POND, Past President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists; formerly Chief Scientist, Department of Health and Social Security.

KENNETH SODDY, formerly Physician-in-Charge, Children's and Adolescents' Psychiatric Department, University College Hospital, London.

HAMISH CHANDER VERMA, P.O. Box 489, Stedman, North Carolina 28391, USA.

EVA WALLER, formerly Consultant Psychotherapist, Goodmayes Hospital, Essex.

RONALD DOUGLAS WATSON, Consultant Psychiatrist, Tooting Bec Hospital, London SW17.