1972. After a year as House Surgeon at Palmerston North Hospital he joined the staff at Porirua Psychiatric Hospital. In 1947 he was appointed Director of Ashburn Hall and here he was to remain until retirement in 1978. Ashburn Hall is a private psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of Dunedin and Reg made it into a centre of excellence. He brought to it his own personal qualities of strength and integrity and coupled these with his ability to set goals and achieve them.

In 1949 he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Here his interest and knowledge of dynamic psychiatry deepened and he made friends with many of the leaders of American psychiatry. Under his guidance Ashburn Hall developed into a therapeutic community receiving patients from throughout New Zealand and providing training for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

In 1969 he was honoured by being appointed to a personal chair of postgraduate studies in psychological medicine at the University of Otago and later, on retirement, he was granted emeritus status.

From the beginning he worked strongly for an Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and it was a tribute to the regard with which he was held that he was elected the foundation president in 1963 and later (1969–72) to the Board of Censors. In 1972 he was elected to the Medical Council. Here his psychiatric expertise and wisdom proved invaluable in dealing with the many difficult decisions that have to be made. Forensic psychiatry was a particular interest in which he had an international reputation. He revelled in the challenge of presenting to a Court of Law the origins of the disturbed behaviour shown by the person in the dock.

His publications evidence another major pursuit, the study of myth and legend and its relationship with psychoanalytic theory. He sometimes used his interest in art and the paintings of patients to amplify this and one can remember memorable case presentations in which he developed the theme.

Gardening was a major relaxation for him and together with his wife Nan he developed a beautiful rhododendron and birch tree dell at Ashburn Hall. After retirement they moved to Raumati Beach where he continued with forensic and consultancy work before finally shifting in 1986 to New Plymouth because of his deteriorating health.

The memories will remain. Reg tall, and always immaculately dressed, presiding over the Friday lunchtime meetings; the slight stammer; the half questioning raise of the eye brows when things were not quite right; the warm hospitality of the Medlicotts in their gracious home; the cultivated mind; the quiet authority. He believed in standards; high standards. He expected the best and because he gave of his best, he obtained it from others.

It was a privilege to have known him. New Zealand psychiatry has lost its senior and most respected figure. Now we share the grief of Nan, Patrick and Bron.

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

**John Edward Edwards**, Consultant Psychiatrist, 201 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

**George Middleton Gibb**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Lancaster.

**Franklin Klafl**, Consultant Psychiatrist, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

**Stanley Leigh**, 187 High Street, Yelling, Hunts, Cambridgeshire.


**Nancy Kathleen Pearse**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Wonford House Hospital, Wonford, Exeter, Devon.