

psychiatry. As an after-dinner speaker he was incomparable and rarely failed to reduce his audience to helpless laughter. he must have replied for 'The Guests' on innumerable occasions. Though sometimes running the risk of being type-cast as the court jester of British psychiatry, he had essentially a very serious attitude to life; any discussion with him revealed deep scientific knowledge and clinical wisdom. He had a warm sense of compassion, which many colleagues and friends experienced. Above all, he hated pomposity and self-importance, and could readily prick the bubble of those characteristics when he encountered them.

Everyone who knew Sidney has a favourite story. My own comes from a regional College meeting where the speaker described the link between psychiatric disorder and bad social conditions, illustrated by slides of the latter. As a particularly gruesome tenement block flashed on to the screen, the familiar Glasgow voice from the back of the darkened room could be heard saying, "och, yer making me homesick". Our last meeting was at the World Congress in Madrid. As we sat on the steps of the conference hall in the sunshine, eating our box lunches, he talked of serious issues of life and relationships, interspersed with outrageous items of professional gossip, of which he had an unrivalled stock.

The affection and respect that Sidney inspired were shown in the 500 people who attended his funeral and the more than 600 letters received at his home within a short time of his death. He was totally dedicated to his family, and is survived by his wife, Leila, who was his inseparable companion, three children and three grandchildren.

HUGH FREEMAN

### **Awni Saad, formerly consultant psychiatrist, Jordan**

Dr Awni Saad was an exceptional man, whose impact on Middle Eastern psychiatry went beyond clinical work: he was able to bring people together by his personal approach and he was instrumental in setting professional standards in Jordan and the Middle East.

Dr Saad was born in Jordan in 1941. He was trained in Glasgow, where he took his Bachelors' degree in July 1968 and returned to Amman as a medical officer in the army. He returned to the UK to train in psychiatry at the Maudsley, obtaining the DPM in 1973.

Dr Saad returned to the Army Military Hospital in Jordan in 1973, where he served till he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He started a flourishing private practice where he gained the respect and friendship of many Jordanian and Middle-Eastern families who regarded him as not only a doctor, but a reliable friend. Dr Saad founded, in 1981, the Jordan Association of Psychiatrists and was elected president for two consecutive terms. In 1987 he was the first Jordanian to be elected FRCPsych.

In the past 10 years Dr Saad had travelled extensively and maintained contact with the College and the American Psychiatric Association. He would attend meetings and present his points of view strongly, but always in his pleasant and friendly manner.

Dr Saad died tragically when he was mysteriously shot in his consulting room in Amman, Jordan, on 8 April 1998. The country and professionals were in shock for he was a man of honour and integrity who had no known enemies.

Dr Saad is survived by his wife, Hiltrud, and his three daughters.

NASSER LOZA