



a keen interest in all that was happening in the world, which made him an informed and entertaining talker. He was a keen theatre-goer, and his surreal plays were performed on Radio Three. He was also a movie buff, and as I was too, and of the same age, this gave us more in common than the book in hand. His suggestion that the British Film Institute be approached for a season of films featuring psychiatrists is one which ought to be pursued.

He was in fine form at the launch of *Down with Gloom* in January, with a rueful story of how the cost of his psychotherapy troubled him to the extent that he would work out how much of the cost of his therapist's worryingly expensive car he had now paid for! There is little fun to be had in being subject to depression, but Mel made his experiences remarkably entertaining. There was to have been a book signing at the Cartoon Gallery in February, but alas, by then he had died suddenly of his second myocardial infarction during the film 'Carlito's Way' in Leicester Square: he died much sooner than he should have done, but perhaps the place and manner of his passing would have pleased him.

The College mourns a good friend, and extends the utmost sympathy to his partner, the novelist Deborah Moggach, and his family. It is good to reflect that, had he been spared, he would surely in due course have been offered an honorary Fellowship: how nice if he had accepted it.

BRICE PITT

**Harry Edelston, formerly Director, Bradford Child Guidance Clinic**

Harry Edelston was born in York on the Eve of the Passover (as he used to remark) in April 1902. He died peacefully in hospital after a long and exhausting period of angina on 2 February 1994. He graduated MB ChB (Hons) from Leeds in 1924 and proceeded to the MD in 1953. He took postgraduate training subsequently at the

Tavistock Clinic in London. He became consulting psychiatrist to the Bradford Mental Health Services, Director of the Local Authority Child Guidance Clinic and consultant to the Bradford Marriage Guidance Council, as well as sometime consulting psychiatrist to Youth Immigration Services (Youth Aliyah) in Israel, this last being perhaps the happiest phase in his working life. An erudite scholar, he wrote a considerable number of books and many articles, mostly in the clinical field of medical psychology. In therapy he was an eclectic, and more so, being an individualist he followed no existing school. His views differed significantly from much of Freud's teaching, yet I sense that he considered 'The Master's' – as Freud had been termed – work as the bedrock of our understanding of human psychology and he paid tribute to others of his colleagues. He certainly did not hide his own light under a bushel, and was conscious of the efficacy of his own methods. In association with his peers he managed to keep just that little distance between them and himself, while his clinical apartheid was recognised in his styling himself as 'consultant in human relations'.

Edelston was occasionally ill-tempered but I liked him. He was dominant mostly but I enjoyed his forthrightness. Of counsel he had plenty and I respected his wisdom. Patience was not his forte, but such was his learning that I could easily defer to him, and he presented an armoury of therapeutic skill which one could only admire. He composed a number of aphorisms: "Psychology persists in describing the obvious in terms of the obscure: academic psychologists develop theories from studying rats running in mazes (and from other lower animals); the wise man learns from the experience of others, the fool only from his own mistakes – if then".

Like many of our other notable psychotherapists Edelston was Jewish and this, perhaps, was the Achilles' heel which restricted the impact of his otherwise expansive personality. He had an inferiority complex which, though hidden from himself, could be apparent on occasion to others. All in all Harry was a kindly man – let that be his tribute. His much loved wife, Esther, died in 1981, and he leaves two daughters and a son.

DAVID T. MACLAY

**John Dalziel Wyndham Pearce, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, St Mary's Hospital, London and at Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, London**

Jack Pearce died on 25 January 1994. His career in psychiatry, spanning 60 years, encompassed child, forensic, and general adult psychiatry and both biological and dynamic approaches. It saw