

**THOMAS LESLIE PILKINGTON, formerly Consultant in Mental Handicap, North Yorkshire Area Health Authority**



Dr Thomas Leslie Pilkington died on 19 December 1989 at York aged 67. "Pilks", as he was known to me for over 35 years, was a Yorkshireman and proud of it. He was educated at Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School, Barnsley and Sheffield University, qualifying MRCS,

LRCP in 1946. He commenced his psychiatric career in 1947 when he took a post as SHO at Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield where he remained for ten years apart from a brief sortie to the far south in 1950–51 as registrar at Brookwood Hospital, Surrey. While an SHMO at Middlewood he made the decision in 1957 to change over from general psychiatry to work with the mentally handicapped, taking a post as Deputy Superintendent of Glenfrith Hospital, Leicester and moving on to his first consultant post at Lea Castle in 1958. He then held a variety of consultant posts north and south of the border ending back in Yorkshire in his last post in 1980 as Consultant in Mental Handicap for the North Yorkshire Area Health Authority from which he retired in 1983. He was elected to the Foundation Membership of the College in 1971 and to the Fellowship in 1973.

Early on in his career he had shown an interest in teaching and especially in the use of film and audio visual techniques for this purpose. He acted as producer for six mental health films for national distribution, one of which 'The Subnormality Picture' 1963 now resides in the National Film Archives.

During his career he had teaching commitments at the universities of Edinburgh, Hull and Leeds and he carried out research into the use of audio visual methods as learning aids both for self instruction for professionals in the field and for the handicapped themselves. Altogether he published 40 papers dealing with psychiatry and mental handicap and psychiatry and film, and was convenor of the Royal College Audio Visual group from 1978 to 1987. "Pilks" was well known outside the national scene. He was a member of the Executive Board of the World Federation for Mental Health from 1962 to

1970 and its chairman from 1963 to 1967, Film Consultant to the World Federation from 1958 to 1975, during which time he produced the *International Catalogue of World Mental Health Films*, and was chairman of the Mental Health Film Council from 1963 to 1967. He acted as chairman to a variety of international conferences and professional organisations and was the editor of the English edition of *The Mentally Handicapped* (Karl Grunewald, Sweden) 1978.

Despite a full and busy professional life "Pilks" maintained a long-term love of vintage cars, and following his retirement renewed his interest in still photography, especially portraiture. He was an active and enthusiastic Quaker, an elder of his local meeting and a Governor of 'The Retreat' at York. He is survived by his devoted wife Alix and his three sons, John, Robin and Jeremy. "Pilks" death has come as a sad blow to those of us who knew him well. An enthusiast, a constant enquirer after information, and a most pleasant and amiable companion, his appealing personality will be missed by many.

PS

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

**KENNETH MCLEOD ARMIT**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, Fife, Scotland.

**MAURICE HERSCHEL FRIEDMAN**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, 7 Ferncroft Avenue, London NW3.

**JOHN COLIN DIXON CAROTHERS**, Emeritus Consultant, St James' Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

**PETER WILFRED WARD LEACH**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Knowle Hospital, Fareham, Hampshire.

**WILLIAM FERGUS McAULEY**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Whiteabbey Training School, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland.

**TURNER McLARDY, MBE**, Consultant Psychiatrist, Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601, USA.

**RONALD HENRY MARTIN**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Princess Marina Hospital, Upton, Northampton.

**PULAK KUMAR MUKHERJEE**, Consultant Psychiatrist, Monkslands District General Hospital, Airdrie, Lanarkshire.

**BRIAN EDWARD OLIVER**, Consultant Psychiatrist, Chelmsley Hospital, Marston Green, Birmingham.

**ARTHUR EDWARD PERCY SWINSON**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Coldeast Hospital, Southampton, Hampshire.