

happy life; her early and painful malignant illness and death had a devastating effect on him. He is survived by his three children, who meant so much to him, and his going is a great loss to so many of his friends.

HS

NANCY SWIFT, Consultant Physician in Psychological Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, London, and formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital

Dr Nancy Swift died on 3 February 1990, in her 75th year. Of Scottish parentage, she was educated at Kingsley School and at King's College London and graduated BA(Hons) in Philosophy and Psychology in 1940. The teaching of Professor Susan Stebbing aroused in her a particular interest in logic and in the philosophy of science which was to remain an influence throughout a distinguished preclinical and clinical career. When she later joined the London Auxiliary Ambulance Service, she was totally fearless and drove through the worst of the 'blitz' in the East End.

In 1944 she entered the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and rapidly established herself as one of its leading students: she was awarded prizes and scholarships, and took a BSc in Physiology. *Inter alia* she was elected President of the Students' Union. She qualified MB BS(Lond) in 1951.

House jobs at her hospital were followed by a Research Fellowship at the Royal Cancer Hospital, but the behaviour of people turned out to have a greater fascination for her than that of cells and in 1953 she joined the Maudsley Hospital and remained there until 1957, obtaining the DPM in 1956. Her intelligence, her integrity and her background in philosophy and science endeared her to the late Sir Aubrey Lewis, who held her in high esteem. Her skills as a psychotherapist were recognised by Dr F. Kräupl Taylor, whom she regarded as her principal mentor and who remained a close friend until his death in 1989. She was popular with her fellow registrars, who were usually younger and less experienced than herself and who often came to her for the kind of motherly support and encouragement which came so naturally to her.

On returning to the Royal Free Hospital she proved an exceptional teacher of psychiatry and psychotherapy to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Eclectic in her approach, she spoke a language which was understandable to her non-psychiatric colleagues who relied on her for guidance and wisdom: she commanded loyalty from all those who worked for her.

She proved to be a shrewd administrator and while Chairman of the Division of Psychiatry she dealt

most tactfully with issues, which in less capable hands, could have led to the breakdown of the Department.

In 1961 she completed her MD thesis on 'Psychological Factors in the Aetiology of Certain Disturbances of Menstruation', a subject which was of particular interest to her. Later she was to write the chapter on psychotherapy in the *Handbook of Psychiatry* (1981); she was not otherwise a prolific writer.

Throughout this time she also held the position of Student Health Officer and concerned herself with the emotional and pastoral care of generations of students many of whom have reason to be grateful to her.

In 1964, encouraged by Sir Aubrey Lewis, she applied for, and was successful in obtaining, the post of Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychotherapy at the Maudsley Hospital, the first woman to have achieved consultant status at that institution. For some seven years she combined her duties at the Royal Free with the above post but in 1973, anxious to reduce her commitments, she returned to the latter hospital. She was elected to the Foundation Membership of the College in 1971 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1974. She retired in 1980.

Nancy Swift, a caring doctor, devoted to her work, had many interests outside medicine and a gift for making and maintaining friendships. Her obvious wisdom and dignity were coloured by a gentle humour at all times. Her husband, Hedley Swift, was killed in action in 1943. She never remarried.

SB

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

SALOMON EDUARDO BARACAT, formerly Clinical Assistant, Drug Dependence Unit, The London Hospital (St Clement's), London E3.

ROBERT FREELAND BARBOUR, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children and United Bristol Hospitals.

MICHAEL FRANK DIXON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Roundway Hospital, Wiltshire.

CHOO WOON GOH, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Child Psychiatric Clinic, Singapore.

GERALD JAMES GOLDBERG, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Goodmayes Hospital, Essex.

MUDIYANSELAGE GUNDAPALA JAYASUNDERA, 23 Amelia Avenue, Wheelers Hill, Victoria 3150, Australia.

RUDOLFO RODRIGUEZ-ARGANARAS, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Bromley Hospital, Kent.

GEOFFREY WILLIAMSON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, North Wales Hospital, Denbigh, Wales.

MAURICE YAFFE, Department of Psychological Medicine, York Clinic, Guy's Hospital, London SE1.