

## Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

**DON BANNISTER, Professor, High Royds Hospital, Menston, Ilkley, Yorkshire.**

Don Bannister died on 11 July 1986 at the age of 58. Only a few months earlier he learned that he had cancer and sadly, surgical treatment only offered a brief prolongation of his life.

He was born in a mining village in Yorkshire, where he demonstrated his intellectual ability by winning a place at a local grammar school. He graduated in Psychology from the University of Manchester in 1954, and completed his training as a Clinical Psychologist at the Maudsley Hospital three years later. In 1959, he wrote his thesis on Schizophrenic Thought Disorder which employed George Kelly's theory of Personal Construct to make sense of the apparent chaos of the schizophrenic's language and thought. Don's view of the role of clinical psychologists, which extended far beyond psychological testing and sought to establish psychologists as independent practitioners who had a valid and different approach to the treatment of psychological distress, was at variance with the Maudsley ethos; indeed, throughout his life many psychiatrists found his challenging approach to their cherished notions and medical roles distinctly uncomfortable. He left the Maudsley to head the department of Clinical Psychology at Bexley Hospital, where he pursued his research interests as a member of the MRC scientific staff.

Don was a passionate advocate of Kelly's ideas and methods, supporting his teaching both with his own research and also stimulating and encouraging his colleagues to apply Personal Construct Theory to their special areas of interest. He wrote the *Evaluation of Personal Constructs* with Miller Mair in 1968. Three years later he joined Fay Fransella to write *Inquiring Man*, still the best introductory account of Kelly's theory for lay and professional readers, and in 1977, again with Fay Fransella, he wrote a manual of repertory grid techniques, demonstrating the relevance of Kelly's ideas to the treatment of patients in a practical manner. He was a founder member of the Psychology and Psychotherapy Association, an organisation in which he was a tireless worker in many differing roles. In the late 1970s he left Bexley Hospital, moving to High Royds Hospital in his native Yorkshire, where he continued to work until his death.

Apart from his career as a research psychologist of international repute, his work as a clinical teacher and as a therapist, there are two other areas where Don showed outstanding ability. Firstly, as a politician and member of the Commonwealth Party and finally as a novelist. His first autobiographical novel, *Sam Chard*, received a glowing welcome from literary critics and it was followed by *Long Day at Shiloh*, an account of the battle which contains portraits of many colleagues in the guise of private soldiers. He

wrote three more novels: *Burning Leaves* and the *Summer Boy* and completing the fifth with Sharon Jackson shortly before he died.

Although not ambitious, he gained academic recognition, being visiting professor of Ohio University at George Kelly's invitation and visiting professor of Surrey University 1972-78 and at Brunel University from 1982 until his death. He achieved formal international recognition in 1984, with the award of a medal for his teaching and research by the University of Sienna.

He was a wise, humorous and inspiring man. A stalwart friend and colleague who sought pleasure in helping others to achieve their goals, whether patients, friends, research collaborators or joint authors. He organised innumerable workshops and conferences. For many of us the International Congress of PCP held in Cambridge will remain the last memory of seeing Don in action at his brilliant best.

Don had a challenging and witty way of communicating ideas and all those who knew him, whether as a lecturer, colleague or friend, grew as a result of that contact. We were all saddened by his passing but are profoundly glad to have known him.

MCB

**PHILIP PINKERTON, Honorary Consultant Physician (Research), Department of Cystic Fibrosis, Brompton Hospital, London SW3.**

Philip Pinkerton, a Foundation Fellow of the College, died at his home on 27 November 1986 after a long and distressing illness, borne with characteristic fortitude and spirit.

Philip qualified in 1944 at Edinburgh University, MB, ChB, with honours and proceeded almost immediately to a successful and highly acclaimed career in paediatric psychiatry. He was awarded his MD (with Commendation) in 1956, having obtained the DPM, London, in 1949. For his MD thesis he explored the intimate relationship between psyche and soma, a subject which was to interest him for the rest of his career. In 1981, the University of Liverpool honoured him by appointing him as Director of Studies in Behavioural Paediatrics, a position he occupied until his early retirement in 1983.

Philip was a prolific writer, the author of two books and more than 50 papers detailing his research into the psychosomatic correlation in childhood asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, end-stage renal disease and ulcerative colitis.

'PP', as he was affectionately known, was a superb lecturer. His incisive wit, scholarship and mastery of the English language held captive many an audience, and provided the stimulus for many of us to take up careers in child and adolescent psychiatry. In medicine he favoured the