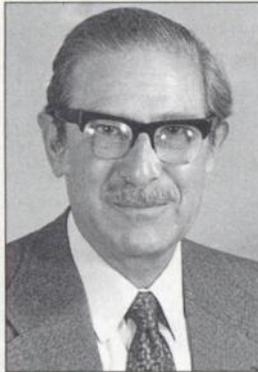

Obituaries



Ralph Emery, formerly consultant Brookwood Hospital, Surrey

Ralph Emery FRCPEd, FRCPsych was born in Berlin in 1920. He came to England in 1937 and following six years' service in the British Army he trained at St George's Hospital where he qualified MB, BS and MRCS, LRCP in 1951.

He was elected MRCP-sych in 1972 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1977. He did his initial training in psychiatry at the Maudsley and worked as senior registrar at St John's Hospital, Aylesbury until his appointment as consultant at Brookwood Hospital in 1961. He later took on the added duties of clinical tutor and medical administrator. For many years he was psychiatrist at the University of Surrey and later medical director of the Student Health Service. He was responsible for the development of many projects in community care and maintained a close liaison with general practitioners, hospital colleagues, social services and voluntary organisations.

Dr Emery's dedication to his work was exemplary and those of us who knew him well found it difficult to understand how he had so much time and energy to devote to his large and lively family. The tireless and unstinting support of his wife, Ellen, was of immense help in coping with his busy professional and social life.

Ralph was gifted with a keen and logical intellect which he combined to a remarkable degree with unfailing compassion. This combination of qualities made him an excellent teacher both by precept and example, and ensured the respect and affection of his patients and colleagues.

In the early seventies Ralph became interested in sailing and with characteristic thoroughness set about achieving qualification as a master mariner. Sailing became his greatest pleasure and he maintained his interest in and enjoyment of it until his final illness.

He died on 15 February 1997 in Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, of lung cancer. He

is survived by his wife, Ellen, three daughters and two sons and 13 grandchildren.

NOEL I. LAVIN

James Barr McWhinnie, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist Highfield Family and Adolescent Unit, Warneford Hospital, Oxford

Dr James McWhinnie (MA (Oxon) MBChb (Edin) FRCPsych, DCH, DPM) was born in 1926 in Kilmaurs, Ayrshire, the son of a mining engineer and colliery manager. Educated at King Edward IV Grammar School, Sheffield, he did his national service as a 'Bevan Boy' - underground - before undertaking his medical studies at Edinburgh University, where he qualified in 1953.

At Edinburgh he was elected President of the Royal Medical Society (a prestigious medical student society). After qualifying James studied child and adolescent psychiatry and became Consultant to the Polment Borstal Institution, where he developed a research interest in delinquency. As a result of this interest he visited Denmark, where he was greatly impressed by the involvement of families in the judicial system for juveniles. This experience helped him inform the Kilbranan Committee, which set the stage for the Scottish Family Court System.

In 1968 James McWhinnie moved to Oxford where he set up the Highfield Family and Adolescent Unit, with the late Professor William Parry-Jones. James established a nationally recognised service which specialised in the psychiatric treatment of adolescents. The unit was highly praised in the 1986 Health Advisory Service special report *Bridges Over Troubled Waters*. James maintained a particular interest in forensic adolescent psychiatry and was involved in assessment centres for boys at Thornbury House, a secure unit, and for girls in Haywards Heath. He was a kind and competent clinician whose diagnostic skills were of a very high standard. Indeed, his ability to summarise cases and get to the core of an issue was an aspect of his work that was greatly appreciated by the Social Services Department dealing with highly disturbed youths. His innovative skill was aptly demonstrated when, faced with increasing pressures in the emerging field of adolescent psychiatry, he set up the then unique service for