

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

JACK WALDMAN, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Tottenham and Wood Green Child Guidance Clinics

Jacob Dov (Jack) Waldman died on 29 March 1992. He was born on 5 October 1929 and was brought up in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was exceptionally able at school and at the age of 16 entered the University of Witwatersrand, graduating MB, BCh in 1951. Following House Officer posts in Johannesburg General Hospital, he worked at Barragwanath Hospital, on the edge of Soweto, and as a mine doctor.

In 1953 he decided to come to England, and following a paediatric job in Farnborough, he commenced psychiatric training at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals, obtaining the DPM in 1956. Jack subsequently held training posts at Claybury and Napsbury Hospitals, and at the Hill End CGC. Later, he pursued a career in child psychiatry and was subsequently appointed Medical Director of Loughton and Hoddesdon Child Guidance Clinics. He also became Consultant Psychiatrist to Shephall Manor, an ILEA boarding school in Stevenage, and to the London Borough of Islington Children's Department, subsequently Social Services Department. In 1975 he was appointed Medical Director and Consultant Psychiatrist to Tottenham and Wood Green Child Guidance Clinics, a post that gave him more scope to express his particular interest in community psychiatry.

His appointment to Haringey coincided with a time of upheaval within the Child Guidance Services and Jack played a very active and dynamic role in emphasising the benefits of the team approach and the role of the CGC within the community.

Essentially a pragmatic, eclectic psychiatrist, he was healthily aware of his own therapeutic limitations, confident about what he could achieve but without omnipotence. He was formally Chairman of NETCAP (North East Thames Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists Group), and for many years represented child and adolescent psychiatry on the NE Thames

Advisory Committee in Psychiatry. Latterly he was Adviser to the RMO regarding adolescents who were difficult to place.

It is particularly poignant that Jack, so much fitter than his contemporaries, should, in 1984, develop multiple myelomatosis. He faced the challenge in the way one would expect – he explored all avenues of treatment, conventional and unorthodox, for to passively succumb was not his style. Treatment for this condition is not pleasant but he was uncomplaining, eager to recover and to return to work and to his family as soon as he could. His efforts were rewarded by a three year remission, and he resumed all the physical pursuits which he loved. He was again full of energy, throwing himself into work and family, exuding the joy of life which was one of his charms. It was a very rewarding time for him – he had faced his biggest challenge and succeeded – but he was not unaware of the uncertainty of the future. Two years ago he began to fall ill again, treatment was less effective, and he suffered from repeated bouts of septicaemia, necessitating more frequent admissions to hospital. His indomitable spirit kept him alive for longer than most and, to the end, he remained optimistic.

He was elected a Foundation Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971 and elevated to the Fellowship in 1981.

JOE SWIFT

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Professor Kenneth Rawnsley, CBE, Past-President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, on Friday, 23 October 1992, at 12 noon in St. Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, London SW1. All Members of the College are welcome to attend this service and a buffet lunch which will be served after the Service at the College.