

Obituary

BOLESŁAW ALAPIN, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Hill End Hospital, St Albans, Herts.

Dr Alapin was born on 16 August 1913 in Warsaw, Poland, where he received his education, both general and medical. He achieved more than a modicum of success in his native country and he was, for example, chairman of the Warsaw Section of the Polish Society of Neurologists and Psychiatrists from 1955 to 1970, and Head of Postgraduate Studies in Psychiatry in Warsaw from 1962 to 1969.

Despite his success, Alapin found himself at odds with the regime in Poland, and, in 1970—not to put too fine a point on it—he defected and came to England. Such was his international reputation that he immediately found employment and was appointed a registrar at Horton Hospital, Epsom, where I had the good fortune to work with him for almost three years.

To begin with his command of English was pretty scant, but he applied himself with great diligence and it was not long before he was sufficiently fluent to be able to make a full contribution to the working of my firm. It was in many ways anomalous to have someone of his academic distinction at clinical meetings at which I was nominally the teacher. Not infrequently the roles were reversed, a reversal to which I had not the slightest objection. He was indeed an excellent teacher, and I was his apt pupil. Not only was he an excellent colleague, but also a very good companion.

Recognition of his true worth was not long delayed: he was appointed consultant to Hill End Hospital in 1973 where he worked until his retirement in 1981. He took an active part in College affairs and served on the Executive Committee of the Thames Valley Division from 1975 to 1980. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1980.

Bolesław Alapin was one of a long line of men who escaped tyranny and came to these shores with nothing to offer but their native intelligence and skills, attributes which have enriched our knowledge and our lives immeasurably.

HRR

MARSHALL WILFRED ANNEAR, Consultant Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Postgraduate Centre, Morgannwg Hospital, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, Wales.

Dr Marshall Wilfred Annear, MRCS, LRCP, FRCPSych, DPM(Eng), DPM(Brist.) died on 28 July 1985, at the age of 67 after a very brief illness. He was a staunch supporter of the College and joined the RMPA in 1942, serving on its Education Committee and on the Films Subcommittee as Vice-Chairman. Later he became a member of the College Council, the Programmes and Meetings Committee, the Nursing Subcommittee, the Psychiatric Tutors Subcommittee, the Audio-Visual Aids Group, and the Central Approval Panel. He was an examiner for the Membership.

In Wales he had served as Chairman of the Welsh Division and as Approved Panel Convenor.

His first psychiatric post was at St Andrew's, Northampton, and from there he was called up to see active service as an RAMC Captain in North Africa and Italy. He had a special interest in the emergency treatment of battle neuroses. He concluded his Army service in 1947 as Area Psychiatrist for North-East England. Back in Wales he had a spell as Senior Psychiatrist at Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, before joining the staff of Morgannwg Hospital, Bridgend, in 1951.

He became Medical Superintendent of Morgannwg and brought his great energy to bear on the revamping of that large institution, in keeping with the revolution in mental hospital practice just beginning. Dr Annear's most enduring professional monument, however, shines in his prodigious efforts in the field of postgraduate education in psychiatry. He became Postgraduate Organiser and Psychiatric Tutor at Morgannwg and built up a magnificent Centre and a series of courses to meet the needs both of young psychiatrists and of general practitioners. All this he achieved in the face of many difficulties, but his enthusiasm and zeal prevailed and very many doctors owe a great debt to his devotion. Even after his retirement from consultant practice he continued to work as Tutor until his death.

Marshall was greatly respected in the Principality as a psychiatrist and for his personal qualities. He was Chairman of the Welsh Psychiatric Society, Chairman of the Mid Glamorgan division of the BMA, President of Barry MIND, and psychiatric adviser to the Penarth Pastoral Foundation.

His wife Doreen (also a doctor) and he were keen travellers and visited most parts of the globe bringing back a fund of stories and pictures. Marshall had a great interest in books, especially concerning the historical aspects of medicine and psychiatry, and was a Chairman of the History of Medicine Society of Wales. He has two sons, both consultants and members of our College. His daughter has also worked in the psychiatric field as a nurse and social worker.

KR

WILLIAM FRANCIS ROPER, CBE, formerly Principal Medical Officer, HM Prison Wakefield.

Frank was born at Plymouth on 2 December 1898, the son of a dental surgeon. He held a regular commission in the Royal Artillery during the latter part of the First World War, after which he began his training in medicine at Guy's Hospital. As a student he obtained a memorial prize, and a distinction in his first MB exam. He qualified in 1924, and after holding various house jobs at his teaching hospital, became an Assistant Medical Officer at Bexley Asylum before joining the Prison Medical Service at Wandsworth Prison in September 1926. Thereafter he