

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

ROBERT McDONALD, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director, High Royds Hospital, Menston, Nr Ilkley

Bob McDonald died at his home in Ilkley on 7 October 1990 at the age of 75, after a long period of illness. He was born on 4 May 1915 in Aberdeen, where he later graduated MB, ChB in 1937 and after junior hospital appointments he eventually entered general practice in Manchester until 1946. He then returned to Aberdeen and took the DPH, followed by appointment as a registrar at High Royds Hospital, Menston, obtaining his DPM in 1949. After more senior posts at Hellingley Hospital and St James's, Portsmouth, he was appointed consultant psychiatrist at St George's, Morpeth in 1953: he took up his final appointment at High Royds Hospital some seven years later, retiring in 1979.

His time at High Royds was one of great change and considerable difficulty, with conflicting philosophies of care and corresponding conflicts among some of his colleagues. As medical director, it fell to his lot to plan and facilitate the changes necessary to transform a large institution with many long-stay patients to a more modern and dynamic hospital, and yet to pave the way for its eventual closure. Throughout, his clear sense of purpose, determination and his deep and genuine concern for the patients—especially the long-stay—enabled the necessary changes to occur without too much upheaval. In addition he played an active part in the setting-up and the clinical work of a metabolic research unit within the hospital for the study of recurrent affective disorders and their treatment by lithium salts, in which he was influenced by the work of Mogens Schou in Denmark, whom he knew well. He became a Senior Clinical Lecturer in the Leeds University Department of Psychiatry, a Mental Health Tribunal professional member and a member of the Home Office Panel of Psychiatrists for prison referrals, and was elected FRCPsych. in 1971.

An essentially very private man, Robert McDonald did not court popularity but always gave of his best, particularly where the welfare of his patients was involved, and they could always rely on his help and understanding. His last few years were marked by illness and major surgery and though often in pain, he bore it with the stoical fortitude

which always characterised his reaction to the vicissitudes of life.

He is survived by his Danish wife, Helen, a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

JMR

WILFRED WARREN, Emeritus Consultant, Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, London

Wilfred Warren died in January 1991. He was born in Winchester in 1910, educated at Sherborne School and received his medical training at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge and at St Bartholomew's Hospital. For two years (1937–1938) he held posts in paediatrics and general medicine. He was called up immediately after the outbreak of the war in 1939. He had with characteristic prescience and a quiet patriotism anticipated what was to come and had joined the RNVR Supplementary Reserve early in 1938. In his six and a half years of service he participated in the landings at Sicily and Salerno and worked with Desmond Curran at Chatham. This led him after demobilisation in January 1946 to the Maudsley.



His ascent up the ladder was exceptionally swift and appointments as physician-consultant to the Bethlem and Maudsley followed in 1948. He collaborated with Kenneth Cameron to create the adolescent unit there and the Brixton Child Guidance Clinic in 1951. The interplay of Wilfred's inner strength and gently deployed decisiveness with Cameron's more intuitive sensibility and imagination made for a fruitful and creative partnership and he was the natural successor as Head of the Children's Department on Cameron's death in 1963.

He was a green-fingered and empathic clinician and the force of his personal example was influential in shaping the character of the Children's Department at the Maudsley. His publications were few but they can still be read with benefit, the study of anorexia nervosa