
Obituaries

Isaac Atkin, formerly Physician Superintendent and Consultant Psychiatrist, Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Isaac Atkin, one of the Golden Oldies of British psychiatry, died on 11 November 1993 in his 94th year. He was a leading light in the old RMPA and from 1956–58 was the chairman of the South Western Division. He will be best remembered, however, for his long and distinguished association with Park Prewett Hospital. In 1937 he was appointed Deputy Superintendent but in 1939, at the outbreak of war, he was transferred to Knowle to return to Park Prewett, which had served as an ENS hospital from 1939–45, as Superintendent in 1946. He then set about the modernisation of the hospital. It was he, for example, who introduced concerts given by the Council for Music in Hospitals, and persuaded the Committee to subscribe to the BRCS picture library scheme which enabled the hospital to borrow up to 50 pictures and to hire speakers to give talks on painting. He was responsible, too, for the introduction of modern methods of treatment of psychiatric illness to a point where Park Prewett was recognised as being in the forefront of modern psychiatric hospitals.*

Isaac Atkin was born in Vitebsk, Russia, on 19 July 1900, into a Jewish family who emigrated to England in 1908. He was accompanied by a brother, Joseph, a year older, who also qualified as a doctor and practised as a GP until his death in 1962.

Atkin studied medicine at St Bartholomew's and qualified MB BS (Lond) in 1924, proceeding to the MD in 1927. He decided to specialise in psychiatry early on and gained the DPM in 1927. He was elected to the Foundation Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971. In addition to his appointment at Park Prewett, he was Consultant Psychiatrist to the Royal Hants County Hospital and Psychotherapist to HM Prison, Winchester. Atkin had a number of publications to his credit including a book, *Aspects of Psychotherapy*, published in 1962. He was a man of great culture, his first love being the ballet about which he amassed a valuable library.

He remained a bachelor until 1980 when he married the widow of a colleague, Dr France. She

predeceased him in 1984. He is survived by two sisters, Minnie and Esther.

Hugh Brechin Craigie, CBE, formerly Principal Medical Officer for Mental Health Services in the Scottish Home and Health Department

Hugh Craigie died aged 85 at his home in North Berwick on 20 November 1993. He qualified MB, ChB at Manchester University in 1931, obtained the DPM and became a member of the RMPA in 1937. His work in the 1930s was mainly at Manchester Royal Infirmary, the County Mental Hospital at Lancaster and Whittingham Hospital, until, in 1939, he volunteered for the RAMC. His service in the War led to his article, 'Two Years of Military Psychiatry in the Middle East', which was published by the BMJ in 1944. By then he had become the Lt Colonel in charge of the military psychiatric unit at Bellsdyke Hospital. In 1947 he was appointed Senior Medical Commissioner to the General Board of Control for Scotland. He was elected Chairman of the Scottish Division of the RMPA for 1954–55, FRCPE in 1958, and a Foundation Fellow of the College in 1971. He was a Corresponding Member of the American Psychiatric Association.

Hugh was appointed Principal Medical Officer in the Scottish Home and Health Department in 1960, following the dissolution of the General Board of Control by the Mental Health (Scotland) Act of that year. He remained in that post until his retirement at age 62 at the end of 1970. His responsibilities included that of Psychiatric Adviser to the Secretary of State for Scotland on patients detained under restriction orders. He would each year make some 250 psychiatric examinations and reports on these patients, and drive thousands of miles between Edinburgh and the 30 psychiatric hospitals in which they were detained. He developed cordial relationships with the consultants and nurses who were treating the patients. He was a member of the Management Committee and the Medical Sub-Committee of the State Hospital at Carstairs. He was the Department's Assessor on the sub-committees of the Standing Medical Advisory Committee which produced influential reports on The Elderly with Mental Disorder; Alcoholics – Health Services for Their Treatment and Rehabilitation; and Forensic Psychiatry. Recognition came to him by the award of the CBE in 1963, and the naming of the Craigie Education Centre at Carstairs and Craigie House in Woodilee Hospital.

*For details of Atkin's contribution to the development of Park Prewett, readers are referred to *Park Prewett Hospital, The History 1898–1984*, by Dilys Smith, published by Basingstoke and North Hampshire Health Authority.