



a keen interest in all that was happening in the world, which made him an informed and entertaining talker. He was a keen theatre-goer, and his surreal plays were performed on Radio Three. He was also a movie buff, and as I was too, and of the same age, this gave us more in common than the book in hand. His suggestion that the British Film Institute be approached for a season of films featuring psychiatrists is one which ought to be pursued.

He was in fine form at the launch of *Down with Gloom* in January, with a rueful story of how the cost of his psychotherapy troubled him to the extent that he would work out how much of the cost of his therapist's worryingly expensive car he had now paid for! There is little fun to be had in being subject to depression, but Mel made his experiences remarkably entertaining. There was to have been a book signing at the Cartoon Gallery in February, but alas, by then he had died suddenly of his second myocardial infarction during the film 'Carlito's Way' in Leicester Square: he died much sooner than he should have done, but perhaps the place and manner of his passing would have pleased him.

The College mourns a good friend, and extends the utmost sympathy to his partner, the novelist Deborah Moggach, and his family. It is good to reflect that, had he been spared, he would surely in due course have been offered an honorary Fellowship: how nice if he had accepted it.

BRICE PITT

Harry Edelston, formerly Director, Bradford Child Guidance Clinic

Harry Edelston was born in York on the Eve of the Passover (as he used to remark) in April 1902. He died peacefully in hospital after a long and exhausting period of angina on 2 February 1994. He graduated MB ChB (Hons) from Leeds in 1924 and proceeded to the MD in 1953. He took postgraduate training subsequently at the

Tavistock Clinic in London. He became consulting psychiatrist to the Bradford Mental Health Services, Director of the Local Authority Child Guidance Clinic and consultant to the Bradford Marriage Guidance Council, as well as sometime consulting psychiatrist to Youth Immigration Services (Youth Aliyah) in Israel, this last being perhaps the happiest phase in his working life. An erudite scholar, he wrote a considerable number of books and many articles, mostly in the clinical field of medical psychology. In therapy he was an eclectic, and more so, being an individualist he followed no existing school. His views differed significantly from much of Freud's teaching, yet I sense that he considered 'The Master's' – as Freud had been termed – work as the bedrock of our understanding of human psychology and he paid tribute to others of his colleagues. He certainly did not hide his own light under a bushel, and was conscious of the efficacy of his own methods. In association with his peers he managed to keep just that little distance between them and himself, while his clinical apartheid was recognised in his styling himself as 'consultant in human relations'.

Edelston was occasionally ill-tempered but I liked him. He was dominant mostly but I enjoyed his forthrightness. Of counsel he had plenty and I respected his wisdom. Patience was not his forte, but such was his learning that I could easily defer to him, and he presented an armoury of therapeutic skill which one could only admire. He composed a number of aphorisms: "Psychology persists in describing the obvious in terms of the obscure: academic psychologists develop theories from studying rats running in mazes (and from other lower animals); the wise man learns from the experience of others, the fool only from his own mistakes – if then".

Like many of our other notable psychotherapists Edelston was Jewish and this, perhaps, was the Achilles' heel which restricted the impact of his otherwise expansive personality. He had an inferiority complex which, though hidden from himself, could be apparent on occasion to others. All in all Harry was a kindly man – let that be his tribute. His much loved wife, Esther, died in 1981, and he leaves two daughters and a son.

DAVID T. MACLAY

John Dalziel Wyndham Pearce, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, St Mary's Hospital, London and at Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, London

Jack Pearce died on 25 January 1994. His career in psychiatry, spanning 60 years, encompassed child, forensic, and general adult psychiatry and both biological and dynamic approaches. It saw

the introduction of ECT, of antidepressant and neuroleptic drugs, and the remarkable changes in mental health legislation and organisation of psychiatric services. He was very probably the last 'all-purpose' (as defined by Aubrey Lewis) clinical psychiatrist.

Pearce was born and educated in Edinburgh and was awarded his MA at the University of Edinburgh at the age of 19 in 1923. Profoundly influenced by a course in psychology – which included lectures by Moreton Prince and Emile Coué – he decided to devote himself to psychiatry and, after qualifying in 1927 and house appointments at the Royal Infirmary and at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, he left Edinburgh to work in English lunatic asylums, first at Chartham Down in Kent and then at the City Mental Hospital in Leicester.

While at Leicester, he attended a weekly course at the Institute of Medical Psychology (the Tavistock Clinic's original name) and as there was then no provision for study leave, he had to take one day's annual leave each week. His teachers there included Henry Dicks, Mary Luff, E.A. Bennet, J.A. Hadfield, Jane Suttie, and Emanuel Miller (who was to be his analyst) and he was so impressed by the new dynamic approach that he gave up his job in Leicester and came to London for more intensive training. He financed this by putting up his plate in Harley Street and by taking various posts including one as medico-psychologist at Stamford House Remand Home for delinquents.

When World War II started, he volunteered for the RAMC and was commissioned as a Major, one of seven command psychiatrists under Brigadier J.R. Rees. In 1942 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and given command of Northfield Military Hospital; later, he was posted overseas as Adviser in Psychiatry, Allied Force Headquarters, Central Mediterranean Forces and was mentioned in despatches.

On demobilisation he returned to his pre-war work and gradually, by taking on new commitments and giving up old ones, he concentrated his efforts on St Mary's Hospital and Medical School, Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, the Royal Masonic Hospital and his own practice. During the 1950s and 1960s he was one of a handful of psychiatrists who dominated London psychiatry.

Jack Pearce was a very kind, understanding man who was a listener rather than a talker; that was one of the reasons he was such a busy and successful psychiatrist. He had a number of interests outside medicine: he travelled extensively throughout Europe and North America, and was a keen golfer (from the age of four), who enjoyed fishing, playing the piano, painting in water colours and curling.

He always kept close contact with Scotland, through his membership of the Caledonian club in London and through regular visits to his croft house in Assynt on the west coast of Sutherland. The strength of that contact made his return to his birthplace, in 1988 when he stopped working, inevitable.

His widow, Elizabeth, together with other members of his family, friends and colleagues, attended a service of thanksgiving held at St Mary's Hospital on 9 March 1994.

KENNETH GRANVILLE-GROSSMAN

Axel Russell, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Oxford Regional Centre, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada

Axel Russell, MD(Graz) FRCP(C) FRCPsych, FRCP passed away on 26 December 1993 in London, Ontario, Canada. He was on the last 'Children's Train' from Austria to Britain and lived with a family in Stratford-on-Avon during World War II.

There he learnt English by listening to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre perform, becoming flawless without a trace of a German accent. He was interned by the British after Dunkirk (as were all German and Austrian Jewish refugees). Eventually, he volunteered for the paratroops and went into France in a glider, the night before D-Day.

As a Jew and a holocaust survivor, through his own internal reflections as well as research with families of holocaust survivors, he made a significant contribution to the understanding of the emotional consequences not only to survivors but to their children and grandchildren.

His work was widely cited in the scientific and lay literature. His interest in the profound effect of this overwhelming stress situation on families led to him becoming one of the pioneer family therapists in Canada. His own creative contribution with his wife, Lila, was the development of a technique known as 'brief structured family therapy' which achieved positive response from colleagues in the field.

During the latter portions of his career as a medical director of an institution for adults with intellectual disabilities, he began to alert the Canadian psychiatric community of the necessity to attempt accurate psychiatric diagnoses within this population. Although the term 'overshadowing' has only recently been introduced in North America by Reiss, Dr Russell demonstrated the ability to diagnose depression, anxiety, and other disorders in a population that might have been treated by unsuspecting colleagues with neuroleptics alone. No doubt the sensitivity which he had brought to the understanding of victimisation within the individual,