

1972. After a year as House Surgeon at Palmerston North Hospital he joined the staff at Porirua Psychiatric Hospital. In 1947 he was appointed Director of Ashburn Hall and here he was to remain until retirement in 1978. Ashburn Hall is a private psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of Dunedin and Reg made it into a centre of excellence. He brought to it his own personal qualities of strength and integrity and coupled these with his ability to set goals and achieve them.

In 1949 he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Here his interest and knowledge of dynamic psychiatry deepened and he made friends with many of the leaders of American psychiatry. Under his guidance Ashburn Hall developed into a therapeutic community receiving patients from throughout New Zealand and providing training for undergraduate and post graduate students.

In 1969 he was honoured by being appointed to a personal chair of post graduate studies in psychological medicine at the University of Otago and later, on retirement, he was granted emeritus status.

From the beginning he worked strongly for an Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and it was a tribute to the regard with which he was held that he was elected the foundation president in 1963 and later (1969–72) to the Board of Censors. In 1972 he was elected to the Medical Council. Here his psychiatric expertise and wisdom proved invaluable in dealing with the many difficult decisions that have to be made. Forensic psychiatry was a particular interest in which he had an international reputation. He revelled in the challenge of presenting to a Court of Law the origins of the disturbed behaviour shown by the person in the dock.

His publications evidence another major pursuit, the study of myth and legend and its relationship with psychoanalytic theory. He sometimes used his interest in art and the paintings of patients to amplify this and one can remember memorable case presentations in which he developed the theme.

Gardening was a major relaxation for him and together with his wife Nan he developed a beautiful rhododendron and birch tree dell at Ashburn Hall. After retirement they moved to Raumati Beach where he continued with forensic and consultancy work before finally shifting in 1986 to New Plymouth because of his deteriorating health.

The memories will remain. Reg tall, and always immaculately dressed, presiding over the Friday lunch time meetings; the slight stammer; the half questioning raise of the eye brows when things were not quite right; the warm hospitality of the Medicotts in their gracious home; the cultivated mind; the quiet authority. He believed in standards; high standards. He expected the best and because he gave of his best, he obtained it from others.

It was a privilege to have known him. New Zealand psychiatry has lost its senior and most respected figure. Now we share the grief of Nan, Patrick and Bron.

PAMcK

JACK MORRISON WHITE, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield.

Dr J. M. White, for many years consultant psychiatrist at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield, and St James's Hospital, Leeds, died recently.

Jack White was a Scot. He studied at Glasgow University where he graduated BSc in 1938 and MB ChB in 1941. After service as a psychiatrist in the RAF, he took the DPM, London, in 1949 and proceeded to the MD in 1956.

He held appointments as a senior medical officer in Cardiff and as a senior registrar in psychiatry in the neurological department of the Sheffield teaching hospitals prior to his appointment to Stanley Royd Hospital in 1955.

White was then faced with putting his sophisticated ideas into practice in the context of a large, gloomy and forbidding hospital dating back to 1818. In spite of all the inherent handicaps Jack succeeded in developing first of all specialised and superior admission facilities and subsequent day care. If in his pursuit of these aims he was excessively single minded, there can be no doubt that his motivation was entirely that of the welfare of his patients, and the honour of the speciality of which he was so proud. The road was not an easy one, and the time and efforts spent on it left little opportunity for more academic pursuits, for which his natural gifts might well have fitted him, but he was an enthusiastic teacher of junior medical officers. Although his teaching was unassuming, one emerged from an engagement with him always slightly surprised to discover just how much one had learned.

Outwardly an affable and outgoing man he was, in fact, of a somewhat reserved and retiring disposition and his social appearances were few. He was sustained primarily, one felt, by a warm and total family life, sadly curtailed by the premature death of his wife, from which, it has been said, he probably never completely recovered. He retired at the end of 1981 and it is sad to think that he had so few years to enjoy his retirement. He is one of the diminishing band of brothers who are sadly missed by those who were privileged to bear many of the burdens with them in those difficult days of the late fifties and the early sixties.

JSH

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

JOHN EDWARD EDWARDS, Consultant Psychiatrist, 201 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

GEORGE MIDDLETON GIBB, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Lancaster.

FRANKLIN KLAF, Consultant Psychiatrist, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

STANLEY LEIGH, 187 High Street, Yelling, Hunts, Cambridgeshire.

EDITH EKRON MUNRO, Consultant Psychiatrist, HM Prison Service, Bullwood Hall, Hockley, Essex.

NANCY KATHLEEN PEARS, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Wonford House Hospital, Wonford, Exeter, Devon.