

Obituary

RICHARD DE-ALARCON, formerly Reader in Psychiatry, University of Southampton.

Dr de-Alarcon died on 11 February 1986 aged 60.

Richard de-Alarcon was born in San Francisco. His early life was spent in the United States and in El Salvador. He studied medicine at Madrid University where he qualified with distinction in 1950. He began his training in psychiatry at the University's Department of Neuropsychiatry and continued it at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals, which he joined in 1953. From then onwards Dr de-Alarcon had an outstanding career, not only as an able clinician and teacher, but also as a notable research worker. He was first appointed consultant to the Institute of Education at London University and then as consultant in psychiatry at Crawley where, he together with Dr Rathod were among the first to develop an effective community based psychiatric service. The facilities they provided included a clinic for the study and treatment of drug addiction.

Dr de-Alarcon's pioneer work in the treatment of drug addiction led to his appointment to the scientific staff of the MRC's Clinical Psychiatry Unit at Graylingwell Hospital. Here he undertook and published a series of important clinical and epidemiological studies, notable among which was a detailed survey of drug abuse in the local population—one of the first of its kind. He continued his research work together with his teaching and clinical responsibilities when appointed Reader at Southampton University.

His work was internationally acclaimed and it was while on an assignment for WHO that he developed a serious hepatic disorder which sadly led to his early retirement. The originality of his published work and his fine qualities as a physician earned him many distinctions among which was being chosen as a Milroy Lecturer.

Richard was a delightful person to have as a doctor, colleague and friend: he combined kindness, humour and gentleness. Whatever he undertook he did with enormous energy and infectious enjoyment which gained him the loyalty and devotion of everyone who worked with him. These qualities helped him to continue to live a full life after he became ill—a burden he bore with fortitude and resourcefulness. Indeed, he indulged his talent for drawing and painting to considerable effect: he had a number of successful exhibitions of his work, which in another way revealed the sensitive, witty and pleasing person he was. He was greatly helped by the happy companionship of his daughter and his wife, Jaqueline, who has also had a distinguished career in psychiatry and social research and who shared so much else with him.

PS

MOHAMED KAMEL EL-KHOLY, formerly Director General, Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Health, Egypt.
Dr El-Kholy died at the age of 85. He graduated from Kasr

El-Aini Faculty of Medicine, Egypt (MB, BCh) and then qualified as a specialist in forensic medicine from England before practising in the Department of Forensic Medicine in the Ministry of Health in Egypt. He then obtained the DPM (London) and was the first qualified psychiatrist in Egypt.

In 1935 he was appointed Director of the Department of Mental Health in Egypt and retired from government service in 1953. He was the President of the Board concerned with the drafting of the 1944 Egyptian Mental Health Act which is still in operation. He was the senior tutor in psychiatry to the postgraduates taking the Diploma of Neurology and Psychiatry as he was to the undergraduates in Kasr El-Aini Faculty of Medicine. He organised regular weekly clinical meetings in Abaassia Mental Hospital, the premier state mental hospital in Egypt, where he was the Medical Superintendent.

He wrote a monograph on forensic psychiatry in which he reported 1500 cases he had examined medico-legally during his service in the Department of Mental Health and as the chief consultant to the Ministry of Justice. He was the first President of the Egyptian Association of Mental Health, which was established in 1948, and associate Member of the World Federation of Mental Health and was elected President in 1952, a position he held for two years. He was also the first President of the Egyptian Psychiatric Association, established in 1972, as an associate Member of the WPA. He was the President of the two International Conferences of Mental Health held in Cairo in 1970 and 1973.

Because of his failing eyesight he retired from his busy private practice and multiple leadership responsibilities and offered his library and private clinic to the Egyptian Association of Mental Health which is now its headquarters.

Dr Mohamed Kamel El-Kholy without doubt was the father of Egyptian psychiatry.

MSAG

CHRISTOPHER HAFFNER, formerly Medical Director, Wessex Unit for Children and Parents, Portsmouth.

Dr Christopher Haffner, a Foundation Fellow of the College, died at the age of 72 on 16 February 1986, after a short illness. He was born in Stuttgart, but left West Germany in 1935 to study Art at the University of Berne, under Paul Klee. Later he joined the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh where he studied medicine in the war years, graduating in 1944. This was followed by a period of training in psychiatry at the Maudsley, after which he worked at Napsbury Hospital, St Albans, and later at Guy's, taking his MD in 1951.

The following year he was appointed Consultant Child Psychiatrist at St James' Hospital, Portsmouth, and subsequently became Medical Director of the Wessex Unit for Children and Parents. It was with the close collaboration of Dr John Revans at the Wessex Regional Health Authority that Dr Haffner was able to develop and