

Dr. Edward Hare

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in July, Dr Hare was among those elected to the Honorary Fellowship, and this affords us the opportunity to pay our tribute to his outstanding services to the College as Editor of the *Journal* from 1972 to 1977.

As far back as 1952 Edward Hare had made his mark in the Royal Medico-Psychological Association by winning both the Gaskell Prize and the Bronze Medal, and subsequently he became known for both literary and scientific work of the highest quality in many fields. Thus, his studies in psychiatric history have been models of their kind, dealing as they do with the changing patterns of mental disease and of attitudes towards mental disease. His social and epidemiological studies have made major contributions to contemporary psychiatry. His inquiries into relationships between mental illness and birth order, fertility and season of birth are characterized by rigorous scientific methods on complex matters dealing effectively with many pitfalls of evaluation. Similar high scientific standards are shown in his studies on the evaluation of psychotropic drugs, including pioneering work on patient compliance. The series of statistical reports published by the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals are based on his arduous work in compiling and analysing the relevant data.

When Dr Eliot Slater proposed Dr Hare's name as his successor in the Editorship, the suggestion was received with pleasure and eager anticipation by his colleagues on the editorial staff, and it soon became apparent that their expectations were to be fully realized.

Hare took over a journal whose standard had already been greatly raised by the work of his predecessor, and this he was determined to maintain. Still actively engaged in clinical work and research—during his five years as Editor seven papers written by him either singly or

jointly were published here, and others appeared elsewhere—he devoted to the *Journal* such meticulous and conscientious care as could only be given by a man of utter integrity. Courtesy and helpfulness in his dealings with authors of papers came naturally to him, and many benefited from the literacy and numeracy which were his and which he himself considered to be the first qualities required of an editor.

Those of the present writers who were his colleagues have been left with the happiest recollections of their collaboration with him. It was the sense of support, the lucid, open-minded and constructive advice always available and the readiness to receive suggestions that was so valuable; and there was as well a sense of freedom resulting from delegated responsibility and trust. Under this favourable regime they were able to develop the *Journal* supplement called *News and Notes* until it could take its place as the College's *Bulletin*, with a readership no longer limited to the College's own members.

Many, again, were greatly impressed by his mastery of the financial and business aspects of journal management. The Memoranda he wrote on these subjects contain fundamental information on the scope and nature of journal organization. Detailed attention to subscription rates, to advertising, to such seemingly trivial issues as the weight of the *Journal* paper in relation to postal charges resulted in continuing financial benefits to the College. Thus during Hare's period of office a thorough and comprehensive awareness of the practical realities of efficient management was acquired, the contemporary role of the *Journal* was defined with precision, and a firm and informed base was laid by him for the *Journal*'s future development.

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