

## Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

**WALTER FABISCH, Formerly Consultant  
Psychiatrist, Mapperley Hospital, Nottingham**

Walter Fabisch was born on 7 June 1904 in Breslau, then in Germany, now Wroclaw, Poland. After a distinguished school career, he qualified in medicine in Berlin in 1929. He initially worked as a medical biochemist, but lost his job as a result of the Nazi purges of German Jews in the early 1930s. Together with his wife, Lise, Fabisch emigrated to Italy, where, in 1934, he re-qualified MD (in Italian) in Palermo. After working in paediatrics in Italy, Fabisch was interned as an alien and transferred to an internment camp in India. However, his talents were quickly discovered and exploited by the Camp Commandant and it was not long before he was treating not just other inmates of the camp, but also the local Maharajah. His reward for this was a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps, being demobbed in 1947 with the rank of Major.

In 1948, Fabisch came to England to study for the DTM & H at the London School of Hygiene. It was suggested to him by his tutor there that he should also take the MRCP, which he succeeded in doing. Following this, he contacted Dr Harry Fisher, a friend from his Berlin days, then Senior Assistant Medical Officer at Mapperley Hospital, in Nottingham, who encouraged him to take up a career in psychiatry. Fabisch achieved the DPM in 1950, was elected to the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in 1969, and was elected a foundation fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971.

Fabisch started work at Mapperley Hospital in January 1949 and served as a consultant from 1954 until his retirement in 1972. During his time at Mapperley he developed the EEG Department in Nottingham to such effect that when he retired a full-time consultant neurophysiologist was appointed. He also pioneered a liaison clinic with the dermatologists in Nottingham which he continued to run for nearly ten years after retirement from his full-time post. Fabisch also had an interest in forensic psychiatry and served as Visiting Psychotherapist to HM Prison, Nottingham, for over 30 years.

Sadly, the last few years of his life were marred by progressive Alzheimer's disease, during which time he was cared for by Professor Tom Arie and his colleagues in the Department of Health Care for the Elderly in Nottingham. He died on 11 December

1991, his wife, Lise, having predeceased him by 18 months. The couple had no children.

He will be remembered as an intellectually able, compassionate and kind colleague, who had many cultural interests outside medicine.

MICHAEL HARRIS

**DR FRANCIS EDWARD PILKINGTON, formerly  
Physician Superintendent, Moorhaven Hospital,  
Devon**



Francis Edward Pilkington, one of the most distinguished psychiatrists of his day, died on 15 December 1991, at the age of 86. In 1968 he served as President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, the forerunner of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, of which he was elected a foundation fellow in 1971 and elevated to honorary fellowship in 1972.

Further recognition of his contribution to psychiatry at an international level came with his appointment as an honorary member of the Société Royale de Médecine Mentale de Belgique.

Pilkington was born on 16 July 1905, at Repton, Derbyshire, of Irish ancestry, a fact of which he was inordinately proud. His father, Frank, a well-remembered Housemaster at Repton School, was Irish and a graduate in mathematics from Trinity College, Dublin. Pilkington's veneration of Ireland and things Irish is seen in his acquisition in 1933 of the MRCP (Ireland) in addition to the London MRCP. He went so far, in fact, as to write a short history of Ireland for the benefit of his children and grandchildren, which, unfortunately, he did not see fit to publish. Further evidence of his enthusiasm, if such be needed, is seen in the unmistakable Celtic names, bestowed on his three daughters, Cailin, Mairin and Ffiona.

Pilkington was educated at Clifton College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he read medicine. He completed his medical studies at King's