
Obituaries



Michael Joseph Kelleher, formerly Clinical Director, Edencurragh, Cork, Eire

When Michael Kelleher (born 11 September 1937) first left Ireland for London in 1966, he said goodbye to his father, who, with tears in his eyes (so Michael would relate) said "I know you will never return". A challenge Michael would later come to recognise as a form of behaviour control. But he did. In fact the need to return to Cork, to the rural homesteads of his ancestors in the West, although he himself was a town boy, was always his intention, even though his resolution would waver under the strong protests and counter arguments of his English friends.

I first met him on the open corridors of the Maudsley Hospital while waiting for respective chiefs to exchange pleasantries and found friendship was not difficult with Michael. He

had an easy charm, a twinkling wit and a way of averting irritations learned by coping with a large number of older and younger siblings.

He passed through and survived the acerbic linguistic battles of the case conferences of the Professor of Epidemiological Psychiatry, confirmed that the female population of Cork was prone to obsessionality and joined the US/UK Diagnostic Project as it plunged into the studies of older age. He helped to construct and test the Geriatric Mental State Schedule and was a powerful member of the UK team.

Discussions and arguments in the US/UK policy meetings in New York tended to grow heated as the hour for departure grew closer, but Michael's was a mollifying voice of common sense. Intransigent positions on both sides would give way to reason, final banquets of food, fun and friendship, before the night plane home: patience, he may have learnt in the long hours in the seminary before he decided not to become a priest.

Whether it was escaping baton swinging storm troopers in Washington, hiding national identities in an apparently hostile Francophone crowd on Jean Baptiste day, avoiding the muggers and ravenous dogs of New York (community studies have their testing moments) or gazing through the mist over the Cliffs of Moher, Michael was the man one could depend on, to have fun and to relax with.

After serving as Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry and Honorary Consultant at the Joint Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, he settled back in Cork against all rational advice, to make a living and disappear from academic psychiatry as Clinical Director of St Anne's Psychiatric Service. But he did not. After only a short time he was in Mannheim as visiting professor before returning to Cork to take up the problem of suicide, always a contentious issue in Ireland, uncover it and make his fellow countrymen, and later others, confront it and its causes. His research work, and with it his reputation, grew. He established the National Suicide Research Foundation in Ireland and canvassed political leaders in its support. Among his successful proposals was for a National Task Force on Suicide. He lived to contribute substantially to it and to strongly support its report.

His reputation travelled, and over the decades he became once again an invited speaker at international conferences and had been elected first vice-president of the International Association for Suicide Prevention before he died, without attaining the age group, which he had given part of his life to studying.

Michael, early in his career, had established his reputation as a kind, able doctor who was not prepared to turn away patients because they could not afford their treatment. He is strongly remembered in Cork, and was much loved. His funeral was a vast assembly of his friends and relatives who followed his body to its burial ground in a remote ruined chapel in the far west of Cork County. He and Margaret, his wife, who had sustained him and their five children

through the Maudsley Institute, German and Irish years, had planned the site together. One would have to have known Michael and his love of West Cork to know why.

Michael enjoyed sharing time with his family, sailing, being in good company, developing his house and garden and preparing his retirement home in the country, where he never lived. However, those who knew him well will keep him alive within themselves and be inspired by the courage with which he and Margaret, also a doctor, faced his last years and months. But the tradition goes forward, his second son, also Michael, is a psychiatrist.

J. R. M. COPELAND



John Donnelly, formerly *Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Institute of Living, Hartford, Connecticut, USA*

John Donnelly, a distinguished 'brain drainee' from the UK to the USA, died on 18 February 1999. He was born in England on 7 June 1914 and studied medicine at Liverpool University where he graduated MB, ChB, and where, later, he was awarded the MD. After deciding a career in psychiatry he trained at the Maudsley and gained the DPM in 1948.

In 1949 he joined the staff of the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut and rose rapidly in the hierarchy: he was appointed Medical Director in 1956 and in 1965 was promoted to the top job of Psychiatrist-in-Chief and Chief Executive. He retired in 1979, but continued his connection with the Institute as Senior Consultant until 1984.

Donnelly was active in the affairs of the American Psychiatric Association for many years and served on several of its important committees. Of major importance in this context was his Co-Chairmanship of the Association's Plenary Session on the 'Ethics of Psychiatry' at the Sixth World Congress of Psychiatry. This, it will be remembered, was dominated by the world-wide concern about the use, or abuse, of psychiatry as a penal instrument in the Soviet Union. Donnelly emerged from these delicate negotiations with considerable aplomb.

He did not exclude his expertise to the interests of the American Psychiatric Association alone: he served, for example, as Chairman of the Council on Mental Health of the American Medical Association, and was President of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry as well as President of the National Association of Private Psychiatric Hospitals.

John Donnelly received many awards in recognition of his invaluable services to American psychiatry in particular and medicine in general: he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science of Trinity College, Hartford, and the 'Award for Meritorious Service' from the American Association of Psychiatric Administrators.

Apart from his teaching activities at the Institute of Living, Donnelly held the appointment of Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut Medical School of Medicine, and had been in his time an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale.