

the introduction of ECT, of antidepressant and neuroleptic drugs, and the remarkable changes in mental health legislation and organisation of psychiatric services. He was very probably the last 'all-purpose' (as defined by Aubrey Lewis) clinical psychiatrist.

Pearce was born and educated in Edinburgh and was awarded his MA at the University of Edinburgh at the age of 19 in 1923. Profoundly influenced by a course in psychology – which included lectures by Moreton Prince and Emile Coué – he decided to devote himself to psychiatry and, after qualifying in 1927 and house appointments at the Royal Infirmary and at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, he left Edinburgh to work in English lunatic asylums, first at Chartham Down in Kent and then at the City Mental Hospital in Leicester.

While at Leicester, he attended a weekly course at the Institute of Medical Psychology (the Tavistock Clinic's original name) and as there was then no provision for study leave, he had to take one day's annual leave each week. His teachers there included Henry Dicks, Mary Luff, E.A. Bennet, J.A. Hadfield, Jane Suttie, and Emanuel Miller (who was to be his analyst) and he was so impressed by the new dynamic approach that he gave up his job in Leicester and came to London for more intensive training. He financed this by putting up his plate in Harley Street and by taking various posts including one as medico-psychologist at Stamford House Remand Home for delinquents.

When World War II started, he volunteered for the RAMC and was commissioned as a Major, one of seven command psychiatrists under Brigadier J.R. Rees. In 1942 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and given command of Northfield Military Hospital; later, he was posted overseas as Adviser in Psychiatry, Allied Force Headquarters, Central Mediterranean Forces and was mentioned in despatches.

On demobilisation he returned to his pre-war work and gradually, by taking on new commitments and giving up old ones, he concentrated his efforts on St Mary's Hospital and Medical School, Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, the Royal Masonic Hospital and his own practice. During the 1950s and 1960s he was one of a handful of psychiatrists who dominated London psychiatry.

Jack Pearce was a very kind, understanding man who was a listener rather than a talker; that was one of the reasons he was such a busy and successful psychiatrist. He had a number of interests outside medicine: he travelled extensively throughout Europe and North America, and was a keen golfer (from the age of four), who enjoyed fishing, playing the piano, painting in water colours and curling.

He always kept close contact with Scotland, through his membership of the Caledonian club in London and through regular visits to his croft house in Assynt on the west coast of Sutherland. The strength of that contact made his return to his birthplace, in 1988 when he stopped working, inevitable.

His widow, Elizabeth, together with other members of his family, friends and colleagues, attended a service of thanksgiving held at St Mary's Hospital on 9 March 1994.

KENNETH GRANVILLE-GROSSMAN

Axel Russell, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Oxford Regional Centre, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada

Axel Russell, MD(Graz) FRCP(C) FRCPsych, FRCP passed away on 26 December 1993 in London, Ontario, Canada. He was on the last 'Children's Train' from Austria to Britain and lived with a family in Stratford-on-Avon during World War II.

There he learnt English by listening to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre perform, becoming flawless without a trace of a German accent. He was interned by the British after Dunkirk (as were all German and Austrian Jewish refugees). Eventually, he volunteered for the paratroops and went into France in a glider, the night before D-Day.

As a Jew and a holocaust survivor, through his own internal reflections as well as research with families of holocaust survivors, he made a significant contribution to the understanding of the emotional consequences not only to survivors but to their children and grandchildren.

His work was widely cited in the scientific and lay literature. His interest in the profound effect of this overwhelming stress situation on families led to him becoming one of the pioneer family therapists in Canada. His own creative contribution with his wife, Lila, was the development of a technique known as 'brief structured family therapy' which achieved positive response from colleagues in the field.

During the latter portions of his career as a medical director of an institution for adults with intellectual disabilities, he began to alert the Canadian psychiatric community of the necessity to attempt accurate psychiatric diagnoses within this population. Although the term 'overshadowing' has only recently been introduced in North America by Reiss, Dr Russell demonstrated the ability to diagnose depression, anxiety, and other disorders in a population that might have been treated by unsuspecting colleagues with neuroleptics alone. No doubt the sensitivity which he had brought to the understanding of victimisation within the individual,

within the family, and within a culture led Dr Russell to formulate his feelings for this neglected population.

Dr Russell was a man of broad artistic interests whose deep knowledge and love of opera, history, and art made him engaging, witty, and delightful as he led us through the richness of life that the companions of his early childhood in Austria would never experience.

Although he has many left to grieve him he will be remembered with joy.

He is survived by his wife, Lila, who was also his co-worker in conjoint family therapy along with their two daughters, Thatiana and Vanessa. He was pre-deceased by another daughter, Bettina.

BENJAMIN GOLDBERG

Special Interest Group

Proposal for a Special Interest Group in Perinatal Psychiatry

In June 1987 Council approved the establishment of Special Interest Groups.

Procedure for establishing a Special Interest Group:

- (1) Any Member wishing to establish a Special Interest Group shall write to the Registrar with relevant details.
- (2) The Registrar shall forward the application to Council.
- (3) If Council approves the principal of establishing such a Special Interest Group then it will direct the Registrar to place a notice in the *Bulletin*, or its equivalent, asking Members of the College to write in support of such a Group and expressing willingness to participate in its activities.
- (4) If more than 50 Members reply to this notice, then Council shall formally ap-

prove the establishment of the Special Interest Group.

- (5) The administrative support provided will be similar to that enjoyed by College Divisions. It should be noted therefore, that the College will maintain the list of members, prepare and distribute notice of meetings but will not provide staff to attend meetings, organise conferences etc.

In accordance with this procedure, Council has approved the establishment of a Special Interest Group in Perinatal Psychiatry. Members are invited to write in support of this Group and express willingness to participate in its activities. Members should write to Mrs Jean Wales at the College. If 50 members reply to this notice for each Group, then Council shall formally approve the establishment of this Special Interest Group.

Professor C. THOMPSON,
Registrar

Election to the Fellowship

At its meeting on 18 April 1994, the Court of Electors was pleased to support Dr Frank Besag's nomination to the Fellowship of the

College. A decision had been delayed since the February meeting pending receipt of further documentation which had now been received.