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# Obituaries

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**Abayomi Ayodele Marinho**, formerly Senior Specialist Psychiatrist i/c of Yaba Mental Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria

Abayomi Ayodele Marinho, died at the age of 77 years, on 20 March 1996, from a cerebrovascular episode. Yomi, as he was known to his many friends, stood a very impressive, tall figure. This, with his long black beard gave him an appearance which some likened to a pirate. But nothing could be more wrong. Yomi was one of the most gentle people I have ever met. He was friendly towards everybody, very understanding, and endowed with great empathy, especially towards his patients. On the other hand he knew what he wanted and more often than not, despite his soft manners, he succeeded.

His father served in the lower echelon of the Colonial Service. Nevertheless, he was able to send Abayomi to St Gregory's College in Lagos, then the leading educational institution in Nigeria. After graduation he worked in a clerical position for some years. But at the end of the Second World War, with the support of scholarships, Abayomi went to Dublin to study medicine.

After graduation he returned to Nigeria and had to serve as Medical Officer for a few years. Finally, he was sent to the Maudsley Hospital to be trained as a psychiatrist which had been his longstanding desire. In June 1961, with his newly acquired DPM, Dr Marinho came back to Lagos and joined the staff of YMH (now the Lagos Psychiatric Centre). Yomi and I, together with a well trained nursing staff, formed a formidable team working hard to translate into reality what the Chief Nursing Superintendent, Mr A. A. Odiá, had started some years back when he had the name changed from Lunacy Asylum to Yaba Mental Hospital. On his return to Nigeria in 1966, Dr Marinho became its first indigenous Medical Director. After his retirement, at the age of 55, he joined the Army on a contract basis and continued to work as a civilian psychiatrist in the Army until the mid-eighties when he finally retired.

Although, due to circumstances, a late starter, Dr Marinho has greatly contributed to the status of psychiatry in his country. He has given reports at the request of the World Health Organization on the history and status of psychiatric services in Liberia and also in Sierra Leone. His reports are comprehensive, informative, practical, and down to earth.

Nobody who knew Yomi will forget this modest man. He was one of the first half a dozen Nigerian

doctors who were trained as psychiatrists. He, with the others, laid the ground for a speciality which today boasts almost a hundred fully trained psychiatrists, and has no par in Africa. May Abayomi Ayodele Marinho be remembered always, especially by the young Nigerian psychiatrists, as a shining example of a successful clinician and a pioneer in our field.

A. BOROFFKA

**George Daniel Fraser Steele**, formerly Physician Superintendent, Runwell Hospital, Essex

Dr Fraser Steele died on 26 November 1995 after a short illness. His career in psychiatry began in Bristol when he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist in 1948. He later moved to Dundee and then for 20 years he was at Runwell and associated hospitals, where he was Physician Superintendent. He also took on many administrative responsibilities, being a member of the then Regional Hospital Board, the Board of Governors of St Bartholomew's Hospital and later a member, consecutively, of both his local Area Health Authority and District Health Authority. He also took a special interest in the Leytonstone House Hospital for mental handicap (as the condition was then called).

He served for a number of years on the Council of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine, becoming the Section President and of which he was later made an Honorary member. He was always friendly, helpful and considerate, as well as being a very competent clinician. He continued to enjoy active clinical work up to the end.

He is buried close to his friends and neighbours, Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears in Aldeburgh.

P. K. BRIDGES

## **The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

ISABEL MARY PLUNKETT CAMPBELL, retired. Formally of Ipswich Hospital, Suffolk

LUCY FAITHFULL, OBE, House of Lords, Westminster, London

DONALD WOOLLEN LIDDELL, retired. Formally of King's College Hospital Medical School, London

JOHN NORMAN PARKER MOORE, retired. Lucan, Co. Dublin, Republic of Ireland