

Obituary

RICHARD DE-ALARCON, formerly Reader in Psychiatry, University of Southampton.

Dr de-Alarcon died on 11 February 1986 aged 60.

Richard de-Alarcon was born in San Francisco. His early life was spent in the United States and in El Salvador. He studied medicine at Madrid University where he qualified with distinction in 1950. He began his training in psychiatry at the University's Department of Neuropsychiatry and continued it at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals, which he joined in 1953. From then onwards Dr de-Alarcon had an outstanding career, not only as an able clinician and teacher, but also as a notable research worker. He was first appointed consultant to the Institute of Education at London University and then as consultant in psychiatry at Crawley where, he together with Dr Rathod were among the first to develop an effective community based psychiatric service. The facilities they provided included a clinic for the study and treatment of drug addiction.

Dr de-Alarcon's pioneer work in the treatment of drug addiction led to his appointment to the scientific staff of the MRC's Clinical Psychiatry Unit at Graylingwell Hospital. Here he undertook and published a series of important clinical and epidemiological studies, notable among which was a detailed survey of drug abuse in the local population—one of the first of its kind. He continued his research work together with his teaching and clinical responsibilities when appointed Reader at Southampton University.

His work was internationally acclaimed and it was while on an assignment for WHO that he developed a serious hepatic disorder which sadly led to his early retirement. The originality of his published work and his fine qualities as a physician earned him many distinctions among which was being chosen as a Milroy Lecturer.

Richard was a delightful person to have as a doctor, colleague and friend: he combined kindness, humour and gentleness. Whatever he undertook he did with enormous energy and infectious enjoyment which gained him the loyalty and devotion of everyone who worked with him. These qualities helped him to continue to live a full life after he became ill—a burden he bore with fortitude and resourcefulness. Indeed, he indulged his talent for drawing and painting to considerable effect: he had a number of successful exhibitions of his work, which in another way revealed the sensitive, witty and pleasing person he was. He was greatly helped by the happy companionship of his daughter and his wife, Jaqueline, who has also had a distinguished career in psychiatry and social research and who shared so much else with him.

PS

MOHAMED KAMEL EL-KHOLY, formerly Director General, Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Health, Egypt.
Dr El-Kholy died at the age of 85. He graduated from Kasr

El-Aini Faculty of Medicine, Egypt (MB, BCh) and then qualified as a specialist in forensic medicine from England before practising in the Department of Forensic Medicine in the Ministry of Health in Egypt. He then obtained the DPM (London) and was the first qualified psychiatrist in Egypt.

In 1935 he was appointed Director of the Department of Mental Health in Egypt and retired from government service in 1953. He was the President of the Board concerned with the drafting of the 1944 Egyptian Mental Health Act which is still in operation. He was the senior tutor in psychiatry to the postgraduates taking the Diploma of Neurology and Psychiatry as he was to the undergraduates in Kasr El-Aini Faculty of Medicine. He organised regular weekly clinical meetings in Abaassia Mental Hospital, the premier state mental hospital in Egypt, where he was the Medical Superintendent.

He wrote a monograph on forensic psychiatry in which he reported 1500 cases he had examined medico-legally during his service in the Department of Mental Health and as the chief consultant to the Ministry of Justice. He was the first President of the Egyptian Association of Mental Health, which was established in 1948, and associate Member of the World Federation of Mental Health and was elected President in 1952, a position he held for two years. He was also the first President of the Egyptian Psychiatric Association, established in 1972, as an associate Member of the WPA. He was the President of the two International Conferences of Mental Health held in Cairo in 1970 and 1973.

Because of his failing eyesight he retired from his busy private practice and multiple leadership responsibilities and offered his library and private clinic to the Egyptian Association of Mental Health which is now its headquarters.

Dr Mohamed Kamel El-Kholy without doubt was the father of Egyptian psychiatry.

MSAG

CHRISTOPHER HAFFNER, formerly Medical Director, Wessex Unit for Children and Parents, Portsmouth.

Dr Christopher Haffner, a Foundation Fellow of the College, died at the age of 72 on 16 February 1986, after a short illness. He was born in Stuttgart, but left West Germany in 1935 to study Art at the University of Berne, under Paul Klee. Later he joined the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh where he studied medicine in the war years, graduating in 1944. This was followed by a period of training in psychiatry at the Maudsley, after which he worked at Napsbury Hospital, St Albans, and later at Guy's, taking his MD in 1951.

The following year he was appointed Consultant Child Psychiatrist at St James' Hospital, Portsmouth, and subsequently became Medical Director of the Wessex Unit for Children and Parents. It was with the close collaboration of Dr John Revans at the Wessex Regional Health Authority that Dr Haffner was able to develop and

implement the planning of a Regional Child Psychiatric Unit, incorporating, by 1967, three in-patient units, out-patient facilities and a special school.

In the mid-1950s, Dr Haffner worked on a study of enuretic children, but during the 1960s and 1970s, he presented a number of dissertations at the RMPA and university venues on more wide-ranging subjects in family psychiatry and, in particular, on adoption, into which he had researched in great detail. He also worked meticulously on the development of clinical data and on a Family Life Health Inventory, at the same time initiating a Diploma Course for nurses in the Psychiatric Care of Children (later to be known as Course 600 and Course 603). In 1960 he was appointed to the Mental Health Review Tribunal for the Wessex Area and remained an active member until the time of his illness.

Intensely creative and imaginative, his considerable abilities as a painter, and as a writer, were unfortunately seldom allowed public expression because of his natural reticence. Those of us who knew Christopher in his later years, as a professional colleague and as a man remember him as a person of great courtesy and charm and of a great breadth of culture. He had, after all, lived or worked in Germany, Switzerland, Scotland, Canada and England. Thus, quite apart from his directly professional concerns and abilities, he was familiar with the literature and the musical and visual arts of many parts of Europe and the New World. His attitude to life in general may indeed have been coloured by his love of the mountains of Switzerland to which he frequently returned. Perhaps it was this influence which often called forth in those who met him, what one might only describe as a sense of personal enlargement.

Always a private person, Christopher was very much a family man. He is survived by his loyal and supportive wife, Luce, by his son, Paul, a Roman Catholic priest, and his daughter, Christine, who graduated in medicine in 1981 at Bristol University.

JCC
JLH

Dynamics of Sado-Masochism, the first of many papers concerning the treatment and aetiology of sexual perversion. In 1930, he opened what quickly became a flourishing private practice, and, along with such colleagues as Edith Jacobson, Karen Horney and Franz Alexander, was a leading member of a study group on depth psychology.

In 1938, as a Jew, he was forced by Nazi oppression to emigrate to England where he worked at the Tavistock Clinic and taught medical psychology at the University of London. He found English difficult, and always felt handicapped by not being able to work in his mother tongue. Nonetheless, he began to publish and present papers, especially concerning the nature of mass phenomena. After the war, he was appointed consultant at Marylebone Hospital and Paddington Day Clinic where he worked mainly as an analytical group therapist. At the age of 70 he retired to his large private practice, and continued to treat individuals, families and groups, as well as to teach and supervise, virtually until his death. In 1971 he was pleased to have been elected a Foundation Fellow of the College as he was when elected an Honorary Member of the Group-Analytic Society in 1982, although he had been one of its earliest members. Many of his publications, such as *Analytic Group Therapy on the Family Pattern* (1980), are read both here and abroad, especially in Germany, where having introduced group therapy to several universities, he is generally acknowledged as one of the founding fathers, and was made the Honorary President of the Deutsche Psychotherapeutische und Sozialmedizinische Gesellschaft.

Walter supervised one of my first cases, and I remain indebted to him for teaching me that the essence of psychotherapy is to help and to heal. He is survived by his wife Lois, whose love and friendship were a source of great pleasure and stimulation to him. Their home was a meeting place for continental and British people from all walks of life, and one always came away from an evening at the Schindlers feeling well-fed and better educated.

EH

WALTER SCHINDLER, retired, 56 Portman Mansions, Chiltern Street, London W1.

Dr Walter Schindler, formerly a Consultant Psychiatrist at Marylebone Hospital and the Paddington Day Clinic, died in London on 17 January 1986. He was 89 years of age.

Born in Breslau, Germany, he graduated in medicine from the University in 1921, having been released from army medical service in 1915/16. He also studied at the Universities of Freiburg and Munich, and did post-graduate work in Berlin and Vienna, where from 1922 to 1925 he had what was then called a didactic analysis by Dr W. Stekel, who was one of the first of Freud's disciples to leave the fold. Dr Schindler remained loyal to Stekel's principles, and continued to practice 'active analysis'. Returning to Berlin, he specialised in psychiatry and neurology in the Oppenheim/Cassier Clinic, and later took charge of the 'psychotherapy ward'. In 1926, he published *The*

KENNETH SODDY, formerly Physician-in-Charge, Children's and Adolescent's Psychiatric Department, University College Hospital, London.

Kenneth Soddy, who died in April 1986 after a short illness, was a scholarly and innovative child psychiatrist. Born in 1911, he was educated at Taunton School, University College, London and University College Hospital Medical School and to his native Devon, his college and his hospital he remained devoted throughout his life.

He qualified in 1934 and by 1939 was Psychiatrist at the London Child Guidance Clinic. He joined the RAMC in 1940 as a Specialist in Psychiatry and in 1944 was appointed Deputy Director of personnel selection in India Command.

From 1948 until his retirement in 1976 he was Consultant and Physician in Charge of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at University College Hospital. He brought to child psychiatry a rare combination of skills and