

for the people who had to live there, constantly improving the residential accommodation, introducing a range of day activities and specialist units. This necessary paternalism was matched by a progressive and innovative spirit. He firmly believed in community care for the majority of mentally handicapped people and that only those with constant medical and nursing needs should remain in hospital—a philosophy much in vogue today. To this end he was always moving towards more locally based services, encouraging development of satellite hospitals throughout the Northern Region and establishing widespread domiciliary services. Always concerned for parents and families, he took a keen interest in parents' groups, becoming the first President of the Northern Region of MENCAP, a role which he undertook with customary energy and enthusiasm.

His influence extended well beyond Prudhoe Hospital. He was a pivotal figure in planning services for mentally handicapped people in the Northern Region, Chairman of the Northern and Midland Division (1955–1958) and Chairman of the Mental Deficiency Section (1963–1966) of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. He was made a foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and was also a Fellow of the American Association of Mental Deficiency, on whose Council he served. Tireless in his professional career, immediately upon retirement he undertook a survey of all mentally handicapped people in hospitals in the Northern Region, personally collecting the data and examining nearly 10,000 individuals—a mammoth task which took five years, and resulted in a much acclaimed work for which he received the Burden Gold Medal and Research Prize in 1972. Despite the increasing vicissitudes of old age he retained a lively and active interest in the care of the mentally handicapped up to his death.

George McCoull will be remembered as a compassionate man who devoted his life to the care of mentally handicapped people and their families. It is all too easy these days with the emphasis on community care and when large institutions have become so unfashionable to overlook the achievements and pioneering work of men like him and forget that it is they who laid the foundations for today's new approaches to care.

KAD

ARTHUR POOL, formerly Medical Superintendent, The Retreat, York

Dr Arthur Pool, a distinguished psychiatrist and former Medical Director of The Retreat, York, died on 29 August 1985 aged 83 years.

Dr Pool, the son of a police officer, was born in Liverpool and educated at Liverpool Collegiate where he was awarded a scholarship to study medicine. He graduated MB ChB with Honours from Liverpool University in 1924. After qualification, he held clinical appointments at several Liverpool hospitals before specialising in psychiatry. His first psychiatric appointment was at Rainhill County Mental Hospital where he served four years as a junior

medical officer before joining the staff of The Retreat as a senior medical officer. His considerable administrative abilities were soon recognised in his promotion to the position of Deputy Medical Superintendent.

In 1934 he was appointed Medical Superintendent to South Yorkshire Mental Hospital, Sheffield, and lecturer in mental diseases at the University of Sheffield. In 1938, he returned as Medical Superintendent to The Retreat where he nurtured the advancement of contemporary developments in psychological and physical treatments in conjunction with The Retreat's historical environmental and spiritual approach to care. After twelve years as Medical Superintendent, Dr Pool joined the National Health Service as Consultant Psychiatrist to Oldham and District General Hospital. Always alert to advances in psychiatric care, Dr Pool developed at Oldham a Community Service which included one of the earliest Day Care Units in Britain. Even after his retirement at 65, he continued in part-time work in Child Guidance Clinics at Oldham for several years. The breadth of Dr Pool's knowledge and experience, combined with his well remembered enthusiasm, facilitated his exceptionally varied career in psychiatry. Dr Pool, a committed Christian, viewed his devoted professional life as an expression and extension of his sincere religious beliefs.

He survived by his widow, Ellen, and his two daughters, Maureen and Joan, whose choice of careers as a doctor and a nurse reflect the influence of their remarkable father.

AMG

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

SAMAI ISAAC DAVIDSON, Shalvata Mental Health Centre, Tel Aviv University Medical School, Hod Hasharon, Israel.

MOHAMED KAMIL EL-KHOLY, retired, 7 Nazeeh Khalifa, Helipolis, Cairo, Egypt.

PHILIP IAN FORSYTH, formerly Clinical Director, State Hospital, Somerset, PA, USA.

ANTHONY GEOFFREY WILLIAM HOLMSHAW, Consultant Psychiatrist, East Anglian AHA.

Sir DESMOND ARTHUR POND, Past President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists; formerly Chief Scientist, Department of Health and Social Security.

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

HAMISH CHANDER VERMA, P.O. Box 489, Stedman, North Carolina 28391, USA.

EVA WALLER, formerly Consultant Psychotherapist, Goodmayes Hospital, Essex.

RONALD DOUGLAS WATSON, Consultant Psychiatrist, Tooting Bec Hospital, London SW17.