

# Michael Gerard Kelly (1921-2004)

## 'Life levels all men: death reveals the eminent' – GB Shaw

Brian O'Shea

*Ir J Psych Med 2005; 22(1): 33-34*

Michael G C Kelly MD, MRCPsych, DPM, was my first boss in psychiatry. My decision to pursue my career was as a result of a talk with this charismatic gentleman in the Drug Centre in Jervis Street Hospital. I was moved to undertake this journey by his inspiring words and presence. When my first stuttering attempt at having a paper published was flatly rejected, Dr Kelly ransacked it with a red pen and turned beast into beauty!

Michael, who hailed from Derry and attended school there and in Dublin, worked in a bank and other lines of business before doing medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. Following jobs in England he proceeded to the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. From there he went to Jervis Street Hospital (the 'Jerv' or Charitable Infirmary – now a shopping centre) and developed the famous National Drug Treatment Centre. He was also consultant to the Mater Dei Institute in Drumcondra.

My two years with Michael Kelly were extremely full and

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fulfilling: inpatient and outpatient substance dependence service, eating disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, Coolmine Therapeutic Community, the launch of the Rutland Centre (with Fr Raphael Short back from the States armed with Glasser's reality therapy), adolescent problems in Drumcondra, public lectures (schools, medical societies, Customs & Excise), the Drug Squad (with Dinnie Mullins), the 'Late Late Show' (with Rod Taylor and Oliver Reed), a junior position on an interdepartmental committee considering the new misuse of drugs legislation, private patients in Dun Laoghaire, weekly articles in the *Irish Medical Times*, and, with JPA Ryan, general psychiatric clinics and ward consultations! On top of all this we saw general medical cases referred from industry. It would be difficult to find a job like that today.

Michael Kelly was a boss who was there when you wanted him. He picked you up when you faltered and made you think that you could fly. He even found the time to write to me during his final illness.

Our heartfelt condolences to his widow (Rosalind) and three children (Justin, Johanna, and Jonathan) on the loss of someone very special.

# Professor Thomas Lynch (1922-2005)

Marcus Webb

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The death occurred on January 6, 2005 of Thomas Lynch, the first Professor of Psychiatry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. From the perspective of his colleagues in psychiatry Tom Lynch came to the speciality at an important, formative time in Ireland. His contribution over four decades to the development of the specialty was a considerable one.

Tom Lynch grew up in Dublin. His parents were teachers who spoke Irish at home, and who became involved in the volunteer movement for Irish freedom. Tom's father was one of the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising; he served as a minister in the first Irish Government, and subsequently as a circuit court judge.

Educated at St Mary's College, Rathmines, and the RCSI medical school, Tom Lynch graduated in 1946 with a first class honours degree. His intern year was at the Richmond Hospital and he then began his training in psychiatry at St Patrick's Hospital under the guidance of Dr Norman Moore.

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Lynch later often talked of his time, more than a decade, at St Patrick's and of his friends and colleagues there: his fellow psychiatrists were an impressive and entertaining group of true individuals. Tom related that he learnt much about psychiatry and also about hospital management there. During this time he obtained his MRCPI and DPM.

1956 was an important year for Tom as he married Sheila O'Donovan, a medical graduate of UCC, and he was appointed staff psychiatrist at St Patrick's. A year spent at the Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry in London, during the reign of the formidable Aubrey Lewis, added to Lynch's training before he was appointed RMS of St Otteran's Hospital, Waterford.

It was in Waterford that Tom Lynch began to demonstrate his ability to get things done in a cash-starved public psychiatric service. He recognised the abilities of many of his colleagues, medical, nursing and administrative staff, and found ways with them to deliver new and improved services. An early success was the opening of the first general hospital psychiatric unit in the Republic, at Ardkeen Hospital in