

contribution to this field, being a founder member of the European Society for Mental Health and Deafness, and presenting lectures at international conferences throughout the world. John was a prolific writer who wrote numerous articles on the subject. He also wrote a comprehensive text book entitled *Deafness and Mental Health*, published by Jessica Kingsley in 1994, which has made a seminal contribution to this field of work.

John's knowledge of general psychiatry and general medicine was extensive, and he was much sought after, even in his retirement, to provide independent reports for mental health review tribunals, and other psychiatric reports. John's death caused great sadness to many, including the Mental Health Act Commission, whose Chief Executive, William Bingley, has put on record that "John Denmark will be remembered by many at the Mental Health Act Commission for his approachability and helpfulness".

John was a warm, humorous person who easily established a rapport with others, both in clinical and non-clinical settings. It was exhilarating to see him interact with deaf patients, many of whom regarded him as a close friend, even though they held him in complete awe. He had the gift of being able to entertain and educate others with his breadth of knowledge and vast array of anecdotes.

John was a keen golfer who enjoyed the camaraderie and competition on the golf course. He played at Preston Golf Club and in a number of golf societies. He was always keen to impart his golfing knowledge after he had won the match.

John will be greatly missed by many around the globe in both deaf and hearing communities, and by the countless people whom he has helped and advised. He has been a source of support and inspiration to numerous professionals now practising in this field. His death is a great loss, though he has left a rich legacy to the field of psychiatry. John Denmark died on 8 September 1998, and is survived by his wife, Frances, son, John, and daughter, Kathleen. His commitment to the cause of deafness was total, and it is fitting, though sad, that nine years after retiring from his consultant post in 1989, his final living moments were spent in discussions with a television producer to publicise the unique history and need for mental health services for deaf people, a project that unfortunately he will now be unable to complete.

A Memorial Service is being planned for April 1999. Further details can be obtained by contacting Dr Brendan Monteiro at National Centre for Mental Health and Deafness, Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 3BL; telephone 0161 772 3432.

BRENDAN MONTEIRO



William Howard Kenneth Carpenter, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Prudhoe Hospital, Northumberland

Dr Carpenter was born in 1914 at Longhope, on the edge of the Forest of Dean. His father died in the First World War in 1917. He left school with no certificates and for two years was an engineer apprentice in the Royal Air Force. He then trained as a pharmacist, with Boots, graduating BPharm (Nott) in 1940. He won a major exhibition, and with the encouragement of his first wife, decided to use the prize money to train as a doctor and qualified MBChB Bristol, in 1946. One of his first temporary jobs was as an assistant medical officer in the Stoke Park Group, at Purdown and Hanham Hall, where he stayed for 21 years, rising to be Deputy Medical Superintendent. He left in 1968, and in the same year remarried, and took his MRCS (Eng) LRCP (Lond). He was appointed consultant psychiatrist at Prudhoe Hospital, Northumberland (he was elected MRCPsych in 1971) where he worked until he retired in 1978. He then returned to Bristol where he was persuaded to help as a locum at Stoke Park for a further seven years.

One of Howard's tasks at Stoke Park was to be doctor for the resident medical staff and their families, as well as performing the medical

examinations for all new staff. He was a meticulous writer of case notes and empathic to the troubles of both staff and patients, making him a popular doctor who is still talked about by his old patients.

He wrote few scientific papers, and in his early days he had played the violin, maintained an avid interest in things mechanical and in model-making. He never gave up his childhood

home in the Forest of Dean, and visited it frequently.

He became increasingly frail in his last few years. He died suddenly from a ruptured aortic aneurysm on 4 September 1998. He leaves his second wife, Judith, and his three sons.

PETER CARPENTER

Late-Onset Mental Disorders

Edited by Andreas Marneros



The association between certain diseases and particular periods of life has been studied since the 19th century, yet attempts to delineate categories of mental disorder unique to old age have floundered over the decades and the debate continues.

After an historical overview, this book looks at differences between early-onset and late-onset disorders. Is there anything special about old-age depression? Are there any atypical features of late-onset schizophrenia? Besides questions concerning depression, dementia and psychosis, the book looks at sleep disturbances in the elderly, anxiety, use of anti-dementia drugs, antidepressants and neuroleptics in old age, and psychological processes.

It will be of particular interest to old age psychiatrists, liaison psychiatrists, epidemiologists, university lecturers and medical historians.

Spring 1999, 208pp, Paperback, ISBN 1 901242 26 9, £25.00

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