

## Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

### **JAMES WHIGHAM AFFLECK, formerly Physician Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Hospital**

The many psychiatrists who worked with Jim Affleck during his long and distinguished career at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital will be sad to hear of his death on 6 March, eight years after his retirement as Physician Superintendent. Born on 8 May 1915, Dr Affleck gave his own personal account of his professional career in the Perspective which he wrote for the *Bulletin* of September 1986. Entitled 'Clinical Management', the article outlined his early interest in psychiatry as a medical student at Glasgow University, his recognition of the wide prevalence of psychiatric disorders and his awareness of the need to develop appropriate specialist services for different psychiatric illnesses. Following early posts in psychiatry in Scotland, he moved to Leeds in 1948 where his experience as Regional Psychiatrist in the early days of the National Health Service brought home to him the importance of administrative skills in dealing with the needs of psychiatric patients.

Coming to Edinburgh in 1957 as Deputy Physician Superintendent, he found himself sharing in major changes which were affecting the local psychiatric scene – in the development of new clinical services, in massive building programmes and in the expansion of the University Department of Psychiatry – and his personal skills quickly became apparent. Co-ordinator, diplomat, facilitator (his own favourite term), his contribution to the local service over the following years was quite outstanding and the ready acceptance by his colleagues of his many initiatives was a remarkable tribute to his personal integrity.

Precise in his ways, undemonstrative yet full of underlying vigour, even-tempered, and always ready to give time to everyone who knocked on his door, whether difficult patient or tiresome member of staff, Jim managed to take on many roles including active membership of the Area Health Board, Honorary Senior Lecturer in the University Department of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Scottish Division of the College and Representative on Council from 1973–79. His major clinical interest was in the rehabilitation of long-stay patients and he was a pioneer in the resettlement of patients in the community, involving himself in the creation of strong links with local authority and voluntary groups.

After his retirement in 1980, he was delighted to find himself taking up a new career as Honorary

Senior Lecturer in the University Department of Rehabilitation Studies, where he threw himself into the development of objective measurements of rehabilitation based on his long practical experience.

Those of us who had the opportunity of working closely with him over the years are left with quite special memories, such as his skill in the formal meetings of the Division of Psychiatry and also his views about the future of our specialty expressed in more informal settings – the hospital coffee room on a Saturday morning comes immediately to mind – where ideas would be exchanged and where points of interest would be pencilled on to his ever-present notepad, to be used at a later date to enhance the psychiatric service to which he gave such a large part of his life.

He was proud of his three sons, one a teacher and two in the medical profession, and happy in his marriage to Catherine who was always generous and long-suffering in her acceptance that the Royal Edinburgh Hospital had to be seen as part of the family.

There must be many areas in the world where psychiatric practice owes much to the example provided by Jim Affleck and where he is remembered by colleagues with great affection.

He was a Foundation Fellow of the College.

WDB

### **SIR PAUL MALLINSON Bt, formerly Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, St George's Hospital, London**

Sir Paul Mallinson, born on 6 May 1909, was educated at Westminster School, Christ Church Oxford, and St Thomas Hospital where he qualified in 1935. Before the war, he gained the MRCP (he was elected to the Fellowship in 1953), the Myers Prize in psychological medicine and a Rockefeller Fellowship. He then served in the RNVR, in a team of talented young psychiatrists, several of whom were to become leading figures in academic psychiatry. After the war he joined Desmond Curran

