

Obituaries

Faith Spicer OBE (MB, BS, JP)

Formerly Director,
London Youth Advisory Centre
(later the Brandon Centre)



Dr Faith Spicer, who recently died at the age of 95, was a truly resolute pioneer in the fields of family planning, sexual counselling and the psychiatry of adolescence. She was acutely aware of the shame and moral outrage that in her time was associated with pre-marital sexual intercourse and its often appalling consequences, not least dangerous, back-street abortions. At that time, women students who became pregnant were seeking abortions for fear of their being sent down. Illegitimate birth rates were accelerating at an alarming rate.

Something needed to be done to challenge the prevailing prejudices and it was testimony to Faith's courage that she entered so powerfully into the fray. In recognition of the predicament of young women who were struggling with their sexuality in a changing society of the 1950s and early 1960s, she became a vigorous campaigner on their behalf for greater public awareness and improved psychosexual services. Her work was controversial, occurring as it did in what were very unsettling times for many people. Religious and moral pressures to uphold the virtues of virginity before marriage were slowly having to face, and adjust to the emergence of, a spirit of greater sexual freedom, which was soon to be further facilitated by the impact of the new technology of its time, the oral contraceptive pill. Faith was viewed with much suspicion but also greeted, especially by the young, with relief and gratitude.

She first practised contraceptive counselling in the Marie Stopes Clinic, whose mission was to prevent unwanted

pregnancies. In 1963 she was appointed Medical Director of the Brook Advisory Centre. After 4 years she resigned from that post because she objected to those in management who wanted to speed up the process of contraceptive advice and increase the number of young people being seen. Faith took a more measured view of the work that was required, arguing that consultations should not be rushed. The issue for her was not so much that of the contraceptive pill itself as of the emotional confusion and turmoil that was often associated with sexual life and development. In 1969 she founded the London Youth Advisory Centre (LYAC), later renamed the Brandon Centre and eventually sited in Kentish Town, London. This established a new model of service for adolescents from the age of 12 up to 25, combining contraceptive advice and counselling/psychotherapy. Dr Gill Hinshelwood, one of Faith's closest colleagues in the LYAC, recalls the birth and growth of the centre at that time as inspiring and indeed revelatory: 'All the most exciting and dangerous things happen on borders and work at LYAC crossed the boundaries of many medical disciplines, including psychiatry, gynaecology, social work, paediatrics and psychotherapy. It was very challenging.'

As time went on Faith became increasingly successful in combating ignorance and fear among the young. She understood the anxiety and uncertainty that many experienced in making decisions in their sexual lives – so often risking their future either by embarking on experiences they were not ready for or refusing experiences they should have. She gave many talks and lectures on a wide range of subjects concerning young people and wrote two important books, *Sex and the Love Relationship* (1972, Priory Press) and *Adolescence and Stress* (1977, Forbes Publications). These admirably convey her knowledge and commitment to her cause as well as her compassionate understanding of those who, as children, had been deeply affected by deprivation and abuse. 'These young people', she wrote, 'have every right to dislike our society and to try to find something better'.

Dr Spicer was born one of twins, the youngest of nine children of the Rev. Montague Gifford James and his wife Violet. Her mother encouraged her daughters to be independent and creative women and Faith did not fail to live up to her expectations. She completed her medical training in 1944 at University College London and became a psychiatrist specialising in work with adolescents and psychosexual medicine. She married a fellow doctor, Clive Spicer, when she was 22 and raised a family of three children. Her marriage ended in divorce in 1986 and she later married Tony Estill who died in 2002.

After her retirement at the age of 65, she became a consultant at the Anna Freud Centre and to the Cotswold Community, a residential therapeutic community for disturbed adolescents. She also served as chair of a Juvenile Magistrates Court and as a member of the British Board of Film Classification.

People who knew Faith enjoyed her warmth and generosity as well as her sharp intelligence and lively

personality. They knew too that at times she could be quite forthright and unequivocal in fighting for what she thought right. The LYAC could not have been born or grown without these qualities in her leadership. There have been many who have been greatly influenced and helped by her. It is particularly appropriate that, not far from where Faith carried out so much of her work, one of her granddaughters, Nell Nicholson, runs Gloucester House, the Tavistock Children's Day Unit carrying out therapeutic care of vulnerable young people.

Dr Faith Spicer died on 22 December 2014. She is survived by her three children, Jane, Mary and David, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Peter Wilson

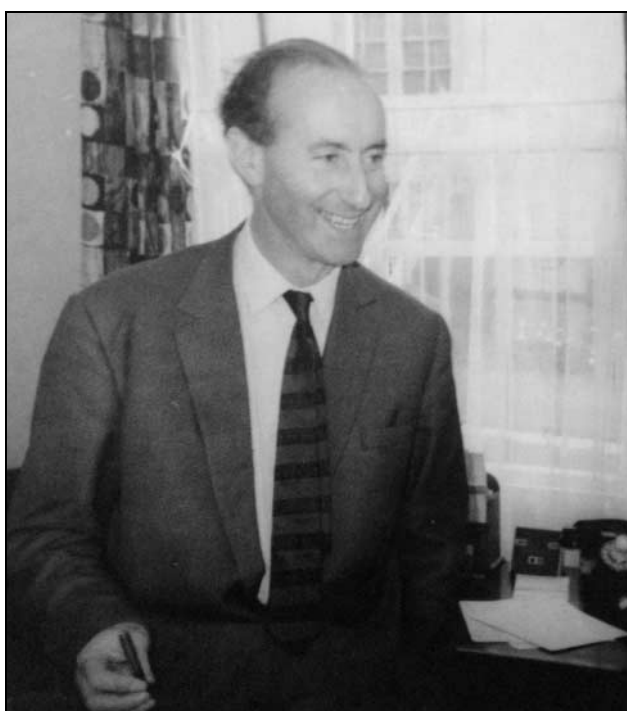
doi: 10.1192/pb.bp.115.051482



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Harry Kaye Rose (LRCP, LRCS, DPH, DPM, FRCPsych)

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Greenwich District Hospital and Bexley Hospital



A spell of service in the Merchant Navy provided Harry Kaye Rose, who has died aged 89 years, with the eye-opener that led him to develop an interest in alcoholism and a realisation of its importance to psychiatry. He worked closely with Dr Max Glatt

in the 1950s when the study of the subject was in its infancy. He was instrumental in setting up one of the few centres of excellence in Warlingham Park Hospital. The treatment model that he and Max Glatt developed was to be the forerunner of that employed in today's Priory clinics. They also established the first treatment centres for drug and alcohol misuse in the prison service. In the early 1960s, drawing on his own experiences at sea, Dr Rose published with Dr Glatt influential academic papers on the health of the merchant seaman and alcoholism.

After leaving Warlingham Park Hospital, he was appointed to be the senior consultant in psychiatry at the new Greenwich District Hospital. He undertook regular consultancy work at the nearby Mableton and Greenwich hospitals, and was a consultant in forensic psychiatry for the Home Office for several years.

At the Mableton Hospital he worked with George Bram, treating traumatised and shell-shocked Polish refugees and soldiers who could not return to Poland after the Second World War. It was here that he struck up a friendship with one of Field Marshall Józef Piłsudski's daughters, Wanda.

In addition to his work in the National Health Service, Dr Rose had an extensive private practice with a patient load that read like a selection from *Who's Who*. He treated government ministers, members of the House of Lords, television and film stars, chief executives of FTSE 100 companies, rock stars and royalty as well as some of the most dangerous and notorious criminals in the country. He also did a great deal of work pro bono for people who were unable to afford treatment.

Dr Rose came from a middle class Jewish family in Glasgow and won many undergraduate prizes in medicine at the University of Glasgow Medical School before qualifying in 1947. He was an outstanding student who gained many awards and prizes during his time at university, including two gold medals. He did his national service as a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, mostly in Colchester. Desperate to travel, he was disappointed that he failed to obtain an overseas posting and, on discharge from the army, joined the Merchant Navy as a ship's surgeon. He travelled the world on both mixed-passenger and cargo vessels. One of his duties was to entertain the passengers, so he had his own table, having to sit through two sittings of seven-course meals every day. It was here that he learnt his extraordinary powers of dietary self-control, later to stand him in good stead when he developed diabetes in his fifties.

After retirement he settled in Devon where he lived for his last 9 years. He died on 30 September 2013, leaving his wife, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

The Rose Family, Brian Humblestone, Tony Mansi

doi: 10.1192/pb.bp.115.051359



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