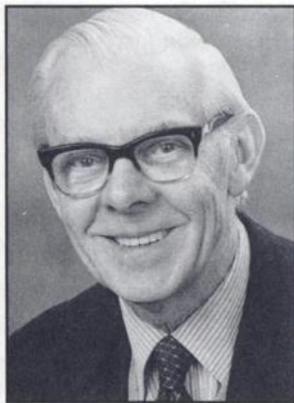

Obituary



Raymond Banner,
*formerly psychiatrist,
Barnsley Hall Hospital,
Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire*

Raymond Banner, a much loved colleague died on 18 October 1997 at the age of 77. He qualified at Liverpool University and trained in psychiatry at Nottingham and Liverpool.

He served in the Second World War, in the Royal Army Medical Corps, in the Middle East for two years, and subsequently completed his psychiatric training at Deva and Moston Hospitals in Chester before joining St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, where he became consultant in 1973. He moved to Barnsley Hall Hospital in 1977, where he was responsible for the psychiatric service to Redditch, then a rapidly developing town. Both patients and colleagues were impressed by his dedication, his compassion and his genuine love of people. He dealt with the whole range of adult psychiatric illness,

including those suffering from addictions, and provided a service for the elderly. After his retirement, two full time consultants in general psychiatry and additional cover for the elderly were needed.

He read widely, not just in psychiatry but in the developments in general medicine. His address at the end of his year as president of the Psychiatric Section of the Birmingham Medical Institute was a fascinating account of the history of man's exploration of consciousness, beginning with an ancient Egyptian papyrus and Raymond demonstrating the hieroglyphs for 'brain'.

He was very involved in the launching of the Smallwood Day Centre in the old Smallwood Hospital in Redditch, and recognised the value of day care long before community care became fashionable.

Raymond suffered the loss of his first wife and their son, Martin, who died soon after qualifying as a doctor. However, Raymond found great happiness in his second marriage to Rachel and in his son Charles, born in 1980.

He is survived by Rachel, Charles and Pauline, his daughter from his first marriage.

SHEELAH JAMES