

pupils alike. His devotion to his profession, which so often made him impatient with mainstream medical practice, was all-pervasive, and is best described in his own words: "There are no diseases of no interest, only doctors with no interest!". Groen's death will be mourned throughout the medical world, and our deepest sympathy goes out to those closest to him.

JB  
HEP

**MAXWELL JONES, CBE, Consultant Psychiatrist,  
RRI, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Maxwell Jones, one of the greatest therapeutic pioneers of British post-war psychiatry, died on 19 August 1990 in Nova Scotia. He is remembered mostly as the creator of the first and most famous 'therapeutic community' the Social Rehabilitation Unit at Belmont Hospital, Surrey (now the Henderson Hospital). However, he made many other contributions to the revolutionary changes in British institutional psychiatry in the early days of the National Health Service, which made British psychiatric hospitals for a brief period an example for all western psychiatry by virtue of their open doors, patient freedom and active rehabilitation.

Born in South Africa in 1907 of an American mother and a Scots father, he was brought up in Edinburgh, attending Daniel Stewart's College and Edinburgh university, where he graduated in medicine in 1931. He studied psychiatry at Edinburgh under David Henderson, in the United States (on a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship) and at the pre-war Maudsley under Aubrey Lewis.

It was the 1939 war which gave him the opportunity to develop his revolutionary ideas. A research unit was set up at Mill Hill to investigate DAH ('disordered action of the heart') which had got many men out of the trenches of World War I and was being diagnosed quite frequently in the conscripts of World War II. The research (which later gained him a gold medal for his MD thesis) soon established that this was a psychosomatic fear reaction. But it was while talking with the demoralised and anxious conscripts that he first discovered the great power of group discussions to heal anxieties and the fact that many people will accept comments and interpretations from fellow sufferers that they reject when they come from powerful doctors.

He extended these ideas in work with returned prisoners of war at Dartford, when he encouraged these shamed and demoralised men to take responsibility for the running of the unit, as a preliminary to taking responsibility again for their own lives. After the war he began to work for the Ministry of Labour with the emotionally disturbed unemployable

(labelled by psychiatrists, then, as 'psychopaths'). Thus developed the famous Belmont Unit. At that time the only models for psychiatric institutions were the large regimented, locked-up county asylums with their prison-like regimes administered by uniformed staff, or the small psychiatric units which attempted to mimic general hospital wards with white coats for doctors, starched uniforms for nurses, glittering instruments and surgical cleanliness. At Belmont there emerged a different model – a community devoted to exploring emotional and social difficulties and interactions where everyone, staff and patients, dressed alike, looked alike and interacted freely and equally. At the community meeting anyone, but especially the Director – "Max" as he was always called – was open to challenge, criticism and interpretation. It was a revelation to all in those days who were seeking better ways to organise psychiatric institutions. Belmont became a place of pilgrimage for pioneering spirits of all professions in British psychiatry and for social scientists from all over the world. Research, professional books, articles, films and TV programmes poured from it. Max was awarded a CBE.

In 1959 Max went to Stanford University, California as Visiting Professor for a year (when the American Psychiatric Association awarded him their prestigious Isaac Ray Award) and then for three years to the State Hospital at Salem, Oregon (where the film 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest' was later made). He started many new projects there but was finally rejected by the political establishment of Oregon State.

In 1963 he came back home to Scotland as Medical Superintendent of Dingleton Hospital, Melrose – already famous as the first (1949) Open Door Hospital in Britain. Critics had said that although the therapeutic community method worked at Belmont with psychopaths, it would not work with psychotics. At Dingleton Max showed that a therapeutic community could develop in a traditional mental hospital. After changing the inner structure of the hospital and considerably emptying it, he moved their work out into the Border towns with specialist multidisciplinary teams and set up a pattern of community care which still endures as a model. He continued to travel widely in Britain and the USA consulting at hospitals and clinics; his visits were always exciting, leaving the institution astir with argument, fury and delight.

In 1970 Max retired from the NHS and went back to North America – first to Denver, Colorado, to the Virgin Islands, to Phoenix, Arizona and finally to Nova Scotia. In each place he consulted with local mental health facilities, lecturing, cajoling, stimulating. At first he travelled continuously, back to Europe, across the States, calling himself a "social ecologist". He worked in prisons and schools and

rehabilitation services, constantly stressing the need to let the under-privileged – the prisoners, the patients, the school children – talk freely to one another and make their own discoveries. He was always an exciting contributor to any conference, challenging the pompous and self-assured, asking the unexpected questions.

In his later years a failing heart limited his excursions, but his mind remained as fresh as ever, always a new enthusiasm, always a fresh delight. He became interested in spiritual issues; while not conceding the rational scepticism of a Scots scientific upbringing, he began to speak of the need for our society to concern itself with spiritual values.

Max used to speak of himself as a “change agent”; that he certainly was. He deployed charm, intelligence and erudition in every situation, challenging, questioning, teasing those he met. He changed the lives of many colleagues and patients, he changed several institutions permanently, and he made a major contribution to the permanent change in British mental hospitals. Thanks to him and a few others we shall never slide back into the prison-like asylums, with their locked doors, punitive attendants and patients forbidden to talk to one another. Through his long career Max published steadily and leaves seven books which describe his social experiments, expound his beliefs and at times catch the flavour of the excitement he engendered and the magic of his personality.

Max leaves three daughters from his first marriage, Chris his third wife who helped him devotedly through the last 15 years, and a host of inspired and devoted friends in many professions.

DHC

**RUDOLPH RODRIGUEZ-ARGANARAS, formerly  
Consultant Child Psychiatrist to the London Borough  
of Bromley**

Dr Rudolph Rodriguez-Arganaras was born in San Diego Del Estero, in Argentina in 1923. Although his father was a veterinary surgeon, the medical tradition in his family extends back for seven generations, first in Spain and more recently in the Argentine. He qualified from the University of Buenos Aires in 1950. While still a medical student, he took an active role in the student union and in human rights issues. As a consequence he led a demonstration against the regime of General Peron, was arrested and spent a short period in prison as a political prisoner.

Soon after qualifying he became the RMO at the Hospital de Clinicas, the main teaching hospital of Buenos Aires. In 1952 he joined the staff of the British Hospital in Buenos Aires and it was there that

his interest in psychiatry was stimulated by the late Professor Kraps whose speciality was psychosomatic illness. He was advised to go to England to seek further training at the Maudsley. Although he arrived at the Maudsley as a clinical assistant, his ability and enthusiasm were soon noticed and he was quickly taken on as an SHO and registrar in the Maudsley training scheme. It was necessary for him to requalify in medicine in order to practise in the UK and he took the MRCS LRCP in 1961 and proceeded to the MRCP in 1963. He was elected MRCPsych in 1972 and FRCPSych in 1987.

During his training years at the Maudsley he met Lionel Hersov and Paul Sandifer who stimulated his interest in child psychiatry, as a result of which he became the senior registrar in the Children's Department between 1963–66.

His first consultant post was in the Barking Child Guidance Clinic, but in 1967 he joined the Bromley Area Health Authority and worked in the Bromley Child Guidance Clinic and at Sydenham Hospital for many years.

Dr Rodriguez was greatly skilled in individual work with children and he derived great pleasure in his daily contact with children. He was an outstanding leader of the child guidance clinic team. The core of his work was always based on the very careful investigation and analysis of the presenting evidence by both the family and the child. From this he worked patiently to help parents take a wider view of their family problems in order to enable them to understand their child better. He was unfailingly courteous even in very demanding and stressful situations. He had a quiet sense of humour which often took the heat out of stormy family crises.

The children he treated always regarded him as a friend. In later life when some of his clients presented to colleagues in the adult department they invariably recalled their time with Dr Rodriguez with much warmth and affection.

Dr Rodriguez was an erudite man who during his early years in medicine wrote many papers on purpura and other haematological topics. He also translated standard English medical textbooks into Spanish, some of which remain in use. He worked extremely hard and single-handedly ran the Child Psychiatric Service for a large London Borough, and he would have been amused to hear that his two successors are now pressing for a third colleague.

In 1987 he was forced to retire at the age of 64 on medical grounds. He had three pleasant years in his retirement studying French literature, but at the beginning of 1990 died after a brief illness. He is survived by one son who has followed him into medicine and now works in oncology.

GS