

A native of Cumbria, George was educated at Whitehaven Grammar School where he was House Captain and Head Boy. He received his medical training at Bristol University and Medical School (MB ChB 1959) and was for a time President of Galenicals (the Medical Students Union) After early jobs in medicine and neurology he entered psychiatry in 1962 as a Junior Hospital Medical Officer at Dovenby Hall Hospital, proceeded to registrar training in Sunderland and Newcastle and then to Prudhoe and Northgate Hospitals for senior registrar training.

His first consultant post was at Earls House Hospital, Durham, (1968–1971), where he presided over an extensive modernisation and rebuilding programme and was instrumental in establishing services on a firm modern footing. In 1971 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, Southampton University, one of the first academic posts in the specialty to be established and Consultant Psychiatrist to Coldeast Hospital, Southampton. From 1973 he combined this with a part-time appointment as Specialist Adviser in Mental Handicap to the Department of Health and Social Security which involved him in a punishing schedule of daily commuting. He opted for full-time clinical work – his real forte, again in 1975 when he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Administrator at Dovenby Hall Hospital where, over the next ten years largely single-handedly and with characteristic energy and enthusiasm, he set about modernising services for the mentally handicapped in East and West Cumbria.

From 1975 to 1977 he was a member of the Jay Committee on Nursing and the Care of the Mentally Handicapped. In 1984 he eagerly accepted the appointment of Director of the National Development Team for Mentally Handicapped People, seeing this as a further opportunity to contribute his vision and expertise at a national level. Sadly this was not to be. Failing health forced him to retire from the post after only nine months and shortly afterwards from professional work altogether.

George bore the illness which began when he was a medical student with great courage and fortitude. He faced death with equal courage, helping to plan his own funeral. He is survived by his wife, Naomi, a general practitioner in Cumbria, who provided untiring support throughout his career, and their two

children whose achievements and individuality gave him much pride and pleasure.

KENNETH DAY

JOHN PAUL MELLON, formerly Consultant for the Mental Handicap Service in Tayside and Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Dundee

Dr John Mellon died on 3 August 1991, after a short illness. He was born in 1930 and educated at St Aloysius College, Glasgow. He attended Glasgow University and qualified MB ChB in 1956. After house officer jobs in Glasgow he began psychiatric training at the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital. In 1959 he moved to Dundee as registrar in psychiatry and following this began to take an increasing interest in mental handicap. He became a senior registrar at Strathmartine Hospital, Dundee, in 1961 and was promoted to consultant there in 1964. He remained in this post until the time of his death.

John Mellon was always deeply committed to the treatment and care of those suffering from mental handicap and had a wide knowledge of the subject and his patients. During the last 20 years of his career, he was particularly concerned with services to Perth and Angus and he held regular clinics in various parts of the counties. Always a firm believer in the importance of the medical and psychiatric role in mental handicap, John also worked increasingly with other agencies and professions. He published scientific papers on various aspects of mental handicap including Down's syndrome and thyroid antibodies as well as chromosome surveys. He undertook research into various aspects of phenylketonuria and developed and managed a chromatography unit at Strathmartine Hospital until this work was transferred to Glasgow. He was involved in the Mental Handicap Section of the College and was elected Scottish Vice-Chairman in 1972.

Besides his medical work, John had various other interests including old Scottish tombstones about which he wrote a book. He was an enthusiastic fisherman who made his own flies and greatly enjoyed working in his garden. In recent years he regularly visited Spain where his daughter had settled.

John Mellon will be greatly missed by staff, colleagues and patients. He is survived by his wife May, formerly a general practitioner in Dundee, and two daughters and a son.

BRIAN R. BALLINGER