

Hugh's first wife Lillia died in 1958. They had three sons. The eldest is in banking in Scotland, the youngest is a hotel manager, and the middle one became Professor of Religious Studies in Calgary but eight years ago died from injuries sustained in a road traffic accident. In 1962 Hugh married Eileen who looked after him in his final illness.

RAYMOND A.W. RATCLIFF

Eleanor Mildred Creak, formerly Physician in Psychological Medicine, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London.

With the death recently of E. Mildred Creak, at the age of 94, child psychiatry has lost one of its earliest great champions and a great character. She knew from an early age that she wanted to be a doctor and work with children. She entered the London School of Medicine for Women but after a year she transferred to University College Hospital and qualified MBBS London from there in 1923. She may by then already have developed an interest in psychiatry which she was better able to satisfy at UCH where she developed a great admiration for two psychiatrists in whose out-patient clinics medical students were welcome. These two were Bernard Hart, and the other was A.F. Tredgold who was interested in mental deficiency.

In early 1920s it was hard for women to get good hospital training appointments. Mildred had become a Quaker during her medical school days and this may well have helped to get her a post at The Retreat in York where she stayed for four years. She then accepted a job at the Maudsley Hospital which, although it meant working for the first year with adults, enabled her to transfer to the Children's Department and within another year she became Assistant Director of that department. In 1932 she was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship for postgraduate training in America where she spent nine months of her time at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, working closely with Frederick Allen and his child guidance team who were also in close communication with the local paediatricians. Returning to the Maudsley, Dr Creak played a large part in establishing a separate department where children could be seen as in-patients as well as out-patients. The new department, in a new building, opened in 1939 but had to close within a month when patients were evacuated to North and South London to lessen the risk of bombing.

During World War II Mildred joined the RAMC and rose to the rank of Major. Again it was hard for a woman to find work in the post-war period. Mildred was asked to return to the Maudsley but she opted against this with courageous honesty, saying "it wasn't the place for me; too scientific,

too abstract, too learned, too statistical." She had done a voluntary placement at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children while previously working at the Maudsley and was very eager to return there and for the following two years worked there on a twice weekly voluntary basis in out-patients, as well as at various other tasks there, most of them also on a voluntary basis. Two of the paediatric physicians at Great Ormond Street were keen to see a psychiatric department started and she was invited to be consultant to a twice-weekly out-patient clinic which was at first voluntary and in 1946 Mildred was appointed to the staff and from then until her retirement in 1963 this was where her main work was carried out. Indeed, she established the Department of Psychological Medicine at Great Ormond Street and won both the respect and affection of all who worked with her, whether as paediatric colleagues or members of the multidisciplinary team which she developed and maintained in her own department on the pattern of the best of American child psychiatry which had so impressed her.

Anna Freud's talks to the staff of the Maudsley aroused Mildred's interest and she went into personal analysis herself for three years before the War. She resumed work with the same analyst soon after her return but she died very suddenly three weeks after the resumption of this long interrupted analysis. She went back into analysis, consciously choosing a Kleinian analyst on this occasion. She was also personally very warm-hearted, generous and concerned as a woman with innumerable friends. Her generosity and concern extended to all in her department and their children, many of whom remember her with affectionate interest. I think she was in some ways particularly helpful to me, a young woman trainee child psychiatrist also being as determinedly psycho-analytically trained as she had not been. She was a very popular Head of Department and for that reason we all tried to please her as well as because if she ever was provoked to what she judged to be unreasonable anger she would then suffer torments of conscience from which we all wanted to save her.

Probably another point in my favour with Mildred as a part-time registrar in her department was that I was simultaneously working part-time as a senior registrar to Donald Winnicott at his department in Paddington Green. Mildred was always generous in her praise of colleagues whose work she admired, particularly in the field of child psychiatry and analysis though she was also able to be critical without disparaging. Mildred was quite clear that Winnicott was a genius, "he was a man out of this world and his gift of insight and his ability to express it was ahead of everyone else." Having worked for them both simultaneously I had the

unique experience of being in close contact with two of the greatest children psychiatric diagnosticians in the short history of this specialty. Winnicott, having been a paediatrician and Mildred in her words "finding it difficult to separate any aspect of psychiatry from the physiological and anatomical basis on which all our bodies work", were truly psychosomatic, psychobiological as Mildred might have called it, in their approach. They also both shared a deep respect for, and understanding of, the role of the environment in enabling a child to develop his innate potentialities. Mildred was a committed Christian and Quaker. She described once thinking of God as taking "a handful of wool and throwing it at you, and giving you a canvas and saying 'now, make what sort of a picture you can out of that'".

She stated that her first hobby was child psychiatry, especially autistic children, and I see one of her many important contributions to our understanding of very severe disorders in childhood as her chairmanship of a working party that laid down the criteria – the nine points – for the diagnosis of autism. Another extremely important piece of work was her follow-up of 100 autistic children and her discovery that a sizable percentage of children with autistic features had organic cerebral problems not diagnosed during lifetime by the then already quite sophisticated techniques available. She was a prolific writer and the author of innumerable important papers and chapters.

Academically, Mildred was well qualified and the appropriate recipient, not only of a Rockefeller Fellowship and of the FRCP, to which she was elected in 1949, but also of the Charles West Lectureship of the Royal College of Physicians in 1958. She was elected to the Foundation Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971.

After retirement Mildred made her second home in Welwyn Garden City where she was an active and grateful participant of the Friends Quaker group at whose Meeting House a memorial meeting was held for her on 24 October 1993. Following her retirement from the NHS she travelled and lectured widely and was particularly pleased that both the in-patient unit at Great Ormond Street and the unit for autistic children in Perth, Australia, had both been named after her during her lifetime.

Working with Mildred was an infinitely interesting and unforgettable experience, a view I

know I share with many colleagues from other disciplines, with whom I gained the important and still very relevant experience of a truly eclectic, multidisciplinary approach rooted in the awareness of the importance of the feelings of both children and adults, children (however young) and their parents, children and their teachers or their carers. Mildred knew about and was influenced by the work of her important contemporaries. She was interested in Gesell but said of him "I don't think at any point he really was involved in the way children reacted to the many experimental situations to which they were subjected". And of Kanner, whose work she also much admired, she said he was "a very interesting person, a very sensitive person, honest and devoted to the task". Mildred herself was a person of deep feeling with such enthusiasm and capacity for hard work in the task of her choosing that I was not surprised to learn that when she retired two people were needed to take over the tasks that she had fulfilled for so long.

SUSANNA ISAACS ELMHIRST

David Shaw, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Belmont and St Helier Hospitals, Surrey

David Shaw died on 20 January 1993 shortly before his 86th birthday.

He studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and graduated, MB BS (Lond) in 1929, proceeding to the MD in 1935. He was elected MRCP Lond in 1936, and in 1971 to the Foundation Fellowship of the College.

Shaw had a distinguished career in psychiatry and will be best remembered for his outstanding work as medical administrator at Belmont Hospital, Sutton, Surrey, at which hospital he served for most of his working life.

Politically, Shaw was decidedly left of centre and resolutely refused to work in private practice. He took an active interest in the fate of those unfortunates illegally and unethically confined to Soviet mental hospitals in the interests of political expediency.

In his latter years, Shaw struggled valiantly against the advent of the vascular effects of diabetes as the result of which he required two amputations.

He is survived by his three children and nine grandchildren, two of whom are medical students.