
Obituary

Christopher Cheyne Lack, formerly Consultant Paediatric Psychiatrist, The London Hospital

Christopher Lack was a man of many parts. He was an enthusiastic collector of English water-colours, with a particular interest in the work of Edward Duncan, a lesser known Victorian artist about whom he wrote an authoritative paper. In addition, Lack was an enthusiastic gardener and was active in matters concerned with his church.

He was born in London in 1913 into a medical family: his father was a consultant ENT surgeon to the London Hospital. He was educated at Cambridge University where he took a degree in psychology before switching to study medicine at The London. It was as a medical student that he had the misfortune to develop ankylosing spondylitis and was advised to abandon medicine as a career. He thought otherwise, and after resting for a year resumed the course, qualifying MRCS (England), LRCP (London) in 1938. He was

elected MRCP (London) in 1964. After qualification he went into general practice.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to a general military hospital in Colchester. Qualified psychiatrists were at that time thin on the ground and on the strength of his degree in psychology he was put in charge of a ward devoted to psychiatric patients. He found the work to his liking and decided to specialise in psychiatry: he was "demobbed" as a specialist psychiatrist with the rank of major. He obtained the DPM Eng in 1947 and was elected FRCPSych in 1971.

After the army Lack returned to The London and eventually followed in his father's footsteps by being appointed a consultant, albeit in a different speciality. He also served as a consultant to the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing.

He is survived by his wife, Hilary, two children and six grandchildren.