



## obituaries



### Kenneth Carl Pfeiffer Smith

Formerly Medical Director  
Wiltshire Child Guidance Services

Dr Smith (Ken) was a Bristolian from start to finish: he was born in Bristol on 2 March 1910 and died there on 16 October 1999. Educated in the classical tradition in Bristol Grammar School, he studied medicine at Bristol University where he imposed his personality on student life in the 1930s. An outstanding athlete, he played cricket and rugby for the University and might well have gained an England cap, but for the war. His social, artistic and athletic gifts led him to continue student life somewhat longer than he intended. He graduated MRCS, LRCP in 1937, and took a short service commission in the Royal Air Force where he attained the rank of Squadron Leader. He organised and directed his own band and became a nationally known figure in 'Aircraftman Smith Entertains', a programme popular with the Forces and with civilians. In 1942 he was posted as Medical Liaison Officer to South Africa where his musical and theatrical talents were fully exploited and where, incidentally, he rubbed shoulders with such famous artists as Leslie Howard and Noël Coward.

On demobilisation in 1946, he specialised in psychiatry. He joined the ex-Service Registrar Training Programme in Bristol Mental Hospital, Fishponds. The return from the Forces of young doctors and nurses hastened the social and clinical revolution in psychiatry and stimulated a heady enthusiasm. This was a time of intellectual ferment, of excitement and of hope. Ken's gaiety and humour greatly enlivened the 'benign uproar' of current debate.

The Fishponds research department, established by Max Reiss, was expanding very rapidly, but the intense initial excitement was unsustainable. Barrow Hospital took over the main acute psychiatric

services of Bristol when it was evacuated by the Royal Navy (1947), the National Health Service (1948) was accompanied by great uncertainties, the expectations of the research department faded. Ken passed the Bristol and the Conjoint DPM but his idealism waned, soon afterward and he went into general practice. The waxing discontent and staff exodus which he joined, led to his aphorism: "Bristol has turned out some good psychiatrists". Later he joined Dr Robert Barbour's newly established Child Guidance team and in 1950 was appointed Medical Director of the Wiltshire Child Guidance Service, a position which he occupied until retirement in 1980. He also did consultant work with the Gloucester and the North Somerset Child Guidance Services and with HM Prison Service. In the late 1950s he researched and presented a programme on left-handedness produced by Dr Jakob Bronowski, one of the first TV programmes to deal seriously from a psychological view point, with a topic of everyday interest.

He was a Foundation Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and a frequent attendee at South-Western Division meetings, which he often stimulated by thoughtful, provocative contributions to current debate. He never sought office in the College, but he was Chairman of the local branch of the British Medical Association in the 1960s.

In the mid-1970s, he and his son Dr Michael Apter postulated the reversal theory of psychopathology, a general theory of personality, emotion, motivation and stress which has generated research in 30 countries, 10 books and 10 biennial conferences, the next in 2001 in Hobart, Tasmania.

His obituary notice in his hometown *Evening Post* recorded his medical contribution to local life, his fame as a musical entertainer and his cricketering and rugby achievements. But his interests were wider still. He had a vast knowledge of ceramics, glass, paintings, books and furniture. Wit, music and poetry ran through his life. His ditties lit up the hospital in the late 1940s.

"Are you weary, are you languid,  
are you sore depressed.  
Get the box and set the clocks  
and Klein will do the rest".

And there were many more.

He would have been 90 next March. He was clear as a bell to the end. He is survived by his wife Vera, herself an artist and potter of more than local reputation, his sons Michael and Paul and five grandchildren.

**D. F. Early**

### William Edward Wilfred Bridger

Formerly Physician Superintendent,  
Mendip Hospital, Wells, Somerset

Dr Bridger was born in September 1914. He studied medicine at Guy's and qualified MRCS Eng. LRCP London in 1938, and graduated MB. BS London in 1939.

Drawn to psychiatry, he obtained the DPM Eng. in 1940, but his career was interrupted by the Second World War. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps reaching the rank of Major, with the responsibility of Adviser in Psychiatry to the South-East Asia command.

In 1944 Bridger was awarded the MD and in 1971 was elected to the Foundation Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. *Inter alia*, he served as Deputy Superintendent at Fair Mile Hospital, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and then as Physician Superintendent at Mendip Hospital, Wells, Somerset. His interest in forensic psychiatry led to his appointment as Visiting Psychiatrist to HM Prison Shepton Mallett.

He died aged 84, in June 1999.

**Henry Rollin**



### John Anthony Harrington

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist  
and Medical Director, Uffculme  
Clinic, Birmingham

Dr Harrington made an enormous contribution to psychiatric training and research and to clinical practice in psychotherapy in Birmingham and the West Midlands, and he was the first Director of Postgraduate Psychiatric Education in the West Midlands Region. Generations of trainees are grateful to him, both for the unique and innovative scheme that he developed in



columns

the Midlands, and also for his personal qualities combining encouragement with the pursuit of high standards.

Harrington was born in Singapore in 1922. He qualified in medicine from the University of Cambridge and St Thomas's Hospital in 1944. After service in the RAF in south-east Asia he trained in public health and worked for the Medical Research Council before deciding upon a career in psychiatry. His psychiatric training started at the Crichton Royal Hospital and continued at the Maudsley.

He moved to Birmingham in 1955 to help establish a new psychiatric research and early treatment clinic, and here he worked with Professor Mayer-Gross at Uffculme Clinic. This was an exciting period for the generation of research ideas, and his subsequent publications cover a large area of psychiatry and related subjects including biological psychiatry, ethology, research into psychotherapy and social psychiatry. John Harrington established himself as a social psychiatrist in the best and most comprehensive meaning of the term.

After being awarded a travelling fellowship to the USA he took a keen interest in postgraduate education and training for doctors and other mental health professionals. Later on, he became the first Director of Postgraduate Psychiatric Education in the West Midlands Region and pioneered both a rotational training scheme for senior registrars in

psychiatry and an highly successful scheme for part-time training of women doctors in psychiatry. He combined excellent administration of the scheme with the personal qualities of warm encouragement and high professional standards. As a result, the Midlands recruited well to psychiatry at a time of national shortage in the speciality, and many generations of future consultant psychiatrists are extremely grateful to John Harrington for his significant contribution to their training.

Elected to the first Council of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, he took an active part in developing its regional activities in the Midlands. He made psychotherapy his special interest and helped to found and develop the West Midlands Institute for Psychotherapy. He greatly enjoyed all aspects of his work and gained considerable satisfaction when former trainees said how much they had benefited from working at Uffculme Clinic. He encouraged schemes for mental health promotion and saw laughter as psychologically important, and those who provided it as benefactors in protecting mental health.

In the 1960s he hit the national headlines when the then Minister of Sport suggested he set up a research team to investigate the problems of football hooliganism that were becoming troublesome. He published a report that foreshadowed later reports into the behavioural problems that continue to cause concern today. In fact, football

could be taken as an appropriate metaphor for the valuable contribution he made to so many professional activities – psychiatric postgraduate education, development of the regional psychotherapy centre, psychiatric services in Birmingham. All these activities in which John Harrington was prominent functioned like an excellent football team – and John was always the captain. He produced a superb working atmosphere in which everyone endeavoured to produce their very best. With consummate skill he enabled the star performers to score, at the same time preventing those with more moderate ability from damaging the outcome, and bringing on the colts who took great pride in playing with his team. John Harrington was much too well read and conceptually broadminded to conform with any narrow label of psychiatric specialism. He was a complete psychiatrist combining theory and skills from many different areas of knowledge.

He travelled widely, enjoyed motor-caravanning, bird-watching and garden tours. With Margaret, his wife, the Harringtons were superbly hospitable, and their party was the outstanding event of the Midlands psychiatric calendar. He died on 8 November 1999, and leaves his wife Margaret and two sons, one a general practitioner and the other a professor of child psychiatry.

**A. C. P. Sims**

## miscellany

### **BUPA Foundation Communication Award 2000**

This will be the seventh year of the **Communication Award**, which is organised in association with the Medical Royal Colleges and the Patients Association. The aim of the award is to enhance mutual understanding between patients

and health care professionals, and should describe work which could be widely adopted for the benefit of patients. There is a prize of £10 000 to the winning entry. The closing date for the full submission is mid-July 2000. The criteria must show an improvement in one of the following areas: doctor–patient communication; communication between doctors and the general public; communication skills of individual doctors as a result of the

project; methods of transferring information between doctors and patients; and in-patient systems. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has won the prize two years running and a glass bowl is displayed on the main staircase of the College. For further information about the award please contact: Lady Nourse, 12 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TX. (tel: 0171 404 0809; e-mail: [ldnour@dircon.co.uk](mailto:ldnour@dircon.co.uk)).

## forthcoming events

The Royal College of Psychiatrists Research Unit is organising a one-day multi-professional conference entitled **Clinical Effectiveness in Mental Health Services for Older People**. Taking place on 23 May 2000 in central London, this event will look at clinical effectiveness in light of the published

National Service Framework for Older People. It will then move on to two parallel sessions, one looking at real life examples of clinical effectiveness in mental health services for older people and the other looking at ways to support clinical effectiveness in this speciality. For a programme and booking form, please

contact: Sam Coombs, College Research Unit (tel: 0171 235 2351 ext 234; e-mail: [sam.coombs@virgin.net](mailto:sam.coombs@virgin.net)).

The Professional Education & Training Unit (PET), University of Southampton are the organisers of the following courses: **CBT with Aaron Beck** from Pennsylvania,