

That is the bare outline of Robert's life and work, but of course tribute should be paid to the whole man. To the southerner on first meeting, Robert appeared the epitome of the dour Scot, given to few words, not often expressing great emotion, but shrewd and firm. When one got to know him, however, one realised that behind all this lay an immense kindness and a desire to support and do his best for all those with whom he came in contact. He has been described as being a "great facilitator" so that once a person or a patient's course became clear he would give all the support necessary to achieve the desired end. He was not overly directive but his great skill as a clinician and administrator lay in his ability to persuade and lead, while allowing those he was leading to feel that they were willing and actively participating.

Robert lived and worked right through the great modernisation of psychiatry in this country with the explosion in pharmacological therapies and the opening-up of the old asylums.

When he came to the Old Manor Hospital it was only three years after it had been taken over by the National Health Service. Until 1954 it had been the largest private lunatic asylum in the South of England. When Robert arrived there almost every ward was locked and its seven hundred beds were mostly occupied by very long term patients. He played a great part in the many improvements at the Old Manor Hospital and, hand in hand, came the development of community psychiatric services. However, he continued to believe that asylum would always be necessary for some patients with mental illness and he was a great supporter of the idea of a therapeutic community. He rightly believed that the nursing and other staff within the hospital played a

central part in a patient's rehabilitation and return to good health.

Despite his many commitments, Robert remained essentially a family man, and took justifiable pride in the successful careers of his four sons, three of whom are members of the medical profession.

He will be mourned not only by his family and friends, but by all those who have every reason to be grateful for his understanding and care.

AJG

HARRY MARSHALL (Obituary, *Psychiatric Bulletin*, June 1991)

SS writes:

I met Harry Marshall at one of the medical meetings of the Lourdes Medical Association, of which we were both members, though he was not himself a Roman Catholic. I discussed with him then the possibility of his helping out the Metropolitan Tribunal of Westminster, the body responsible for assessing nullities of marriage on behalf of the Archdiocese of Westminster, with the psychiatric assessment of 'Acta', that is, documents sent regarding the failure of marriages which have been selected out as involving psychiatric issues. I look through and report on these Acta when I can, but take a long time over it. Harry, having agreed to assess Acta, was so assiduous that he did far more than any other psychiatrist – indeed, than all us other psychiatrists put together. So sorely has he been missed since his death that the Tribunal has arranged a meeting of as many psychiatrists as possible to get the whole thing started once more. His contribution, therefore, albeit non-Catholic, to the Roman Catholic Church in this respect was quite invaluable. Officials of the Tribunal were present at his funeral.

Miscellany

New publications

The Law Commission's Consultation Paper No. 119, *Mentally Incapacitated Adults and Decision Making: An Overview*, in published by HMSO, price £6.90.

The Family Planning Association has published a book giving legal guidelines about sex and people with learning difficulties entitled *Sex and the Law* by Michael Gunn, price £12.99.

Disasters – A Caring Response is published by HMSO, price £13.75, and can be obtained from HMSO bookshops and from Cruse-Bereavement Care, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond TW9 1UR. (Please add £1.70 postage and packing.)

The Mental Health Foundation has published four new titles in their Mental Health Matters series: *Problems with Tranquillisers*; *Problems of Alcohol*; *Dementia and the Family*; and *Mental Handicap and*

the Family. The booklets will be distributed nationally through general practitioners' waiting rooms.

Out of Harm's Way, MIND's Research into Police and Psychiatric Action under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, is available from MIND Mail Order Service, 4th Floor, 24–32 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD, price £13.50 plus £1 postage and packing.

Supporting Self-Advocacy, edited by Andrea Whittaker, contains contributions by people with learning difficulties and by people working in supportive roles. It is available from Bailey Distribution Ltd, Department KFP, Learoyd Road, Mountfield Industrial Estate, New Romney, Kent TN28 8XU, price £6.50 plus 10% postage and packing, or over the counter at the King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.