

James David Gomersall, formerly Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, University of Sheffield

Jim Gomersall died on 28th April 1995. He had had a kidney removed for a malignant growth but had been led to feel optimistic. Nevertheless, he took early retirement hoping to write a book on his own brand of psychotherapy and human dynamics.

After military service in Africa, Jim studied medicine in Leeds and qualified MB.ChB in 1959. He was appointed lecturer in Aberdeen where he was awarded the MD on a thesis on the treatment of migraine in that city. He gained the Diploma in Psychotherapy (Aberdeen) in 1966 and the MRCPsych in 1972. He was appointed to a senior lectureship in Sheffield in order to copy some features of the Aberdeen course and in doing so develop a Sheffield Diploma in Psychotherapy. This he did in his own way, giving enormous encouragement to some who lacked specific academic qualifications, but who, he usually rightly saw had therapeutic gifts. He was much more of a therapist than an academic: theories and ideologies were not his concern. Because he cared, he could be surprisingly blunt and candid with his clients who often needed time to recoil and benefit.

Jim was a humble and very unassuming person whom everyone trusted. He had an obsessional aspect to his personality which enhanced his integrity and made him so dependable. He also had a schoolboy-like enthusiasm for things which was infectious, and accompanied by a unique sense of humour. He could have been an actor as he could illustrate portrayals of personality types by entertaining imitations of accents, facial contortions and turns of phrase.

As a child Jim had experienced psychiatric referral. He had had a restrictive childhood, but overcame the trauma, not least through the help of his wife, Mary. He was pleased to explain this and was able to use his past to

the benefit of his clients. He made them realise that he knew how they felt. Few of us have as many devotees, few have his integrity. It was so uncluttered by the excesses of personal ambition.

While Jim's religious outlook was unobtrusive in his life, the strength it gave him facing death was very striking. He, in fact, comforted others, and showed no features of denial, merely stating that he would prefer more time to finish his book. He leaves his wife Mary, two daughters, a son and many ordinary people who were devoted to him.

F. A. JENNER



Ivor Howard Jenkins, formerly Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist East Dorset Health District

Dr Ivor Jenkins was born on 5 May, 1910 and died peacefully after a stroke on 16 June, 1995, aged 85.

Jenkins studied medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London and

qualified MRCS, LRCP in 1934, graduating MBBS (London) in 1935. After deciding on a career in psychiatry he acquired the DPM in 1944 and was elected MRCPsych in 1971.

He served with distinction in the RAMC during the war, reaching the rank of Major and Deputy Assistant Director Army Psychiatry. After demobilisation he was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth and St Ann's Hospital, Poole and after retirement continued work at Herrison Hospital, Dorchester.

CARYN BARTLETT (daughter)