

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.