



Mary Wynne Coxon, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist in Child Psychiatry, Oxfordshire

Mary Coxon (née Bowen) (MB ChB 1939), a trailblazer among Welsh medical women, was among the first cohort of female medical students in the 1930s at the Welsh National School of

Medicine which she entered at the tender but purposeful age of 16. After wartime service with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Poona (where she met and married another Army doctor, Victor Coxon) she worked in paediatrics and ophthalmology in Oxford, contributing to an early study on retrolental fibroplasia in premature infants.

With Victor, she raised three children and then, without a pause for breath, she trained in psychiatry to become Consultant in Child Psychiatry for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. She was apparently tireless in her commitment not only to her patients and colleagues, but also to her family, who remember her hard at work in her flower-garden, in her kitchen and wielding her knitting needles.

In retirement she travelled widely, read voraciously and gardened ever more vigorously; her tiny North Oxford garden was bursting with life. She was at the heart of a close family and played her part as both "materfamilias" and an excellent companion. Five fortunate young people have had an immensely warm-hearted and energetic grandmother. In Oxford, she took on the chairmanship of the Cheshire Foundation's Taylor House for disabled students. Mary Coxon remained bright-minded to the last, in her unflagging vitality and generosity an inspiration to many.

She died of peritonitis on February 14th 1996.

JOHN RAWLINSON