

---

## Responsibilities and role of the consultant psychiatrist in the multidisciplinary team

---

A small working group has recently been established, under the chairmanship of the President, to produce a policy statement setting out the core responsibilities of consultant psychiatrists and their role in the NHS, and elaborating on the role of consultants in each of the psychiatric specialties. It is intended that this statement will clarify the statutory and other responsibilities of the consultant psychiatrist in all areas of psychiatric practice.

Membership of this group includes the Registrar, the Dean, and representatives from the Specialist Sections of the College, the Liaison Psychiatry Group, the Collegiate Trainees Committee, and the College Research Unit.

Members wishing to contribute to this debate are invited to forward their comments to the

College Secretary as soon as possible, as it is proposed that the statement will be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of Council on 25 January 1994.

At a later stage, it is proposed that the working group will address further related issues, including the relationship between the consultant psychiatrist and non-medical members of the multi-disciplinary team, medical responsibility for patients referred directly to non-medical members of the team, and appropriate levels of cover for in-patient psychiatric services, and the distance from an acute or non-acute unit that medical staff should be resident.

Vanessa Cameron, *The Secretary, The Royal College of Psychiatrists*

---

## Obituaries

---

**Noman Nadhim Bayatti**, formerly Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Wigan Health Authority

Noman Bayatti died on 6 February 1993 having borne more than two years of illness with courage and dignity.

Noman was born in Iraq and qualified MB ChB Baghdad in 1965; he eventually settled in England in 1978. Previously he had spent time here both as a schoolboy and as a junior doctor in paediatrics, obtaining the DCH (RCPGlas) in 1970. He returned to England to pursue a career in child psychiatry, becoming senior registrar in Exeter before taking up his consultant appointment in 1987. He was elected MRCPsych in 1984.

His patients benefited from his undoubted clinical skills, and his colleagues from his wisdom and humanity. Noman was an engaging and literary conversationalist with a gentle sense of humour.

All who knew him were saddened by his untimely death, and our particularly sympathy goes to his wife Amal and their three children. Family, friends and colleagues attended a Memorial Service in Noman's honour on 8 May 1993.

P. A. COOK

**Charles Mathurin Vaillant**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Walton Hospital, Liverpool

Charles Mathurin Vaillant, the son of a Liverpool general practitioner, died on 24 August 1993. He was born on 27 November 1906, and was educated at Stoneyhurst College following which he went up to Trinity College Oxford, where he read Physiology, graduating BA(Hons) in 1927. He continued his medical studies at Liverpool University and qualified MRCS, LRCP, in 1932, and BM (Oxford) in 1934. He obtained his MRCP in 1937, and was elected FRCP in 1968. In 1949 he obtained the DPM (Conjoint) and in 1971 was elected to the foundation fellowship of the College.

Before 1939, he worked *inter alia* at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, under Dr William Johnson, an honorary physician with special interests in neurology and psychoneurosis.

As a TA officer in the Lancashire Yeomanry he was immediately called up for active service in 1939. He served throughout the 1939–45 War first in France prior to Dunkirk, and later in the Sudan, Egypt and India. With the rank of Lieutenant Colonel he commanded a general hospital in Northern India. He was later awarded

the TD for his long and distinguished service in the Territorial Army.

After demobilisation he succeeded Dr Rankin as consultant psychiatrist at Walton Hospital, Liverpool. He started with a few in-patient beds, but by 1948 he was able to set up his own exclusively psychiatric unit in a three storey former medical block. At that time, he was one of the few consultant psychiatrists in this country to have an in-patient unit which was not in a designated observation ward or mental hospital.

He was, therefore, one of the forerunners of modern psychiatric treatment in units in district general hospitals. It is a measure of the respect in which he was held in the hospital that he was able to set up his unit in so short a time after joining the staff.

Dr Vaillant had his own individual style of psychotherapy but was nevertheless eclectic in his approach to treatment.

I remember that we were using anaesthesia and relaxant drugs to modify ECT long before the local mental hospital was able to do this.

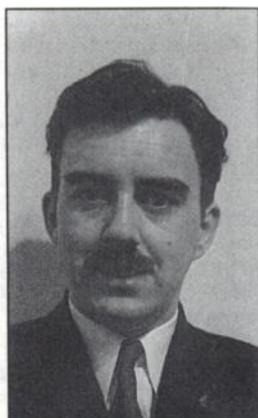
He had an extensive private practice and was in much demand as a legal expert in both civil and criminal cases. He worked also for many years as consultant to the DHSS in pension assessment.

He was a man of great charm and had a puckish sense of humour. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues, especially by those, like myself, whom he trained.

He married in 1940 and is survived by his widow, two married daughters, and a son, a general practitioner in Liverpool.

ROBERT H. MARTLEW

**William Ballantine Wright**, formerly *Physician Superintendent, Craig Phadrig Hospital, Inverness; Senior Lecturer, University of Aberdeen*



Bill Wright died on 30 June 1993, aged 67. His contribution to the field of mental health was considerable. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and St Mungo's College, Glasgow, qualifying LMSSA (London) in 1950 and gaining the DPM (London) in 1958. He was elected FRCPsych in 1978.

Before becoming the first Physician Superintendent of Craig

Phadrig Hospital he had been registrar at Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich, area psychiatrist at Tidworth, Wiltshire and Deputy Superintendent at the Royal Scottish National Institution, Larbert, Stirlingshire. With this background he brought clinical and administrative experience to supervising the opening of Craig Phadrig by HRH Princess Alexandra in 1968.

His continued dedication to his chosen branch of psychiatry built up wide respect for the hospital. He travelled widely over the Highland and Island area. He pioneered many associated developments for the mentally handicapped and disabled. He had high clinical acumen, enthusiasm and a penetrating mind. He brought help, support and security to many families throughout the area. His sage observations on the very real problems of mental deficiency were enlivened by his quiet pawky humour. He was indeed a realist. He was too balanced a thinker of too high a calibre to apply the dogma of an all-or-none-law to mental defect and community care. His tenure of office was initially associated with a productively stable period in the NHS. His advice was much sought after both inside and outside the service. The facilities possessed by his base, Craig Phadrig, were excellent. They included a first-class swimming pool and teaching classrooms as well as wide ranging occupational therapy which could develop to some degree the most limited of inherent capacity.

In 1982 Bill retired to Grantown on Spey. There he enjoyed the country town life with his wife, Molly. His latter years were clouded by incurable illness. This he bore with fortitude. Molly and two daughters survive him.

MARTIN WHITTET

**The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

- THOMAS EGGLESTON BURROWS, formerly Medical Superintendent; Greystones, Oxenhall, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1RN.
- THOMAS MATTHEW COLLINS, retired Consultant Psychiatrist; 1 Kill Abbey, Kill O' the Grange, Blackrock, Co Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
- DAVID GILMOUR, retired, formerly Medical Director, Psychiatric Services, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.
- ALEXANDER LEITCH, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Glenside and Barrow Hospital Group, Bristol.
- NORMAN CRANSTON LOW, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist; Medical Director, Priory Suite, Nuffield Hospital, Leicester.
- ROY DOUGLAS HAMILTON MAXWELL, retired; 32 Aberford Road, Wakefield, WF1 4AJ.
- MILDRED ISOBEL POTT, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist; 3 Blenheim Road, London W4 1UB.
- JOAN METCALF RIDLEY, retired, formerly Director, Tamarind Centre, Casuarina, North Territory 5792, Australia.