

## **OBITUARY OF BOLESŁAW PIĘTOCHA MBE MD**

B PIĘTOCHA MBE, MD Dr B Piętocha, a retired psychiatrist in Norwich, died in hospital on 9 October after a lengthy illness borne courageously. He was 73. Boleslaw Piętocha-Bolek-qualified in medicine in Warsaw in 1939 and started his psychiatric career there. With the outbreak of war he was called up, but after a distressing time he escaped to Romania, then to France, and finally to England in 1940. He used to joke then about having nothing except the clothes he was wearing. He joined the Royal Air Force and served with great merit as medical officer to various Polish squadrons fighting with the RAF. He was awarded the MBE for an act of conspicuous bravery in attempting to free a pilot from a burning plane. After the war Bolek joined the medical staff of St Andrew's Psychiatric Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, working there and at the newly built Yare Clinic until his retirement at 65. He was a hardworking and loyal colleague; his approach to patients was by making friends with them and then skilfully using drugs, physical treatments, psychotherapy, and occasionally hypnosis. He became popular with his medical and nursing colleagues and, most important of all, with his patients. He was responsible for the care and treatment of many Polish and Ukrainian ex-servicemen. Bolek's retirement was happy. He was an active member of the Anglo-Polish club of Norwich and became an enthusiastic and expert home wine maker. He enjoyed quiet holidays each year, latterly near Venice, when he improved his Italian considerably. He also tended his small garden, having a great love for flowers. He is survived by his wife, Stella and three children, Janice, Gerald and Maria.

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