

OBITUARY

Mario Fleischl, a Foundation member of the New Zealand branch of the British Psychological Society, died in Wellington on the 20th October, 1971. He had been in private practice as a psychoanalyst for over thirty years, and had earned the respect of many psychiatrists, physicians, university teachers and students. He was born on 7th March, 1905, in Lwow, Poland, and went to Vienna in 1926. During the next nine years he established close contact with the renowned 'Vienna school' of psychoanalysis. He undertook psychoanalytic training with Dr Hans Sachs and with Dr Paul Federn, before working with August Aichorn at his Institution for the treatment of adolescents. Aichorn encouraged Mario to become a potter, as an adjunct to his therapeutic skills.

He married his first wife in Vienna, and left with her and their son Peter for Lausanne in 1935 after the Anschluss. His wife completed medical qualifications in Switzerland, and they came to New Zealand, arriving on 16th August, 1936. Mario then made himself familiar with psychiatric, psychological and psychoanalytic works in English, while his wife requalified. They came to Wellington in 1943, and Mario began his practice. A few years later he became a part-time lecturer in abnormal psychology at Victoria University.

He had a wide circle of friends, among potters, painters and musicians, and when his first wife died Mario married Margaret Nielsen, a pianist and Lecturer in Music at Victoria University.

Mario was a man who not only embodied the best of European culture, but had genuinely identified himself with New Zealand. His erudition, widely ranging cultural interests and, above all, his great personal warmth, endeared him to so many, and his death will be felt as a sad loss by those whom he helped professionally, as well as by his friends. Sympathy was expressed to his wife, son, and grandchildren at a memorial conference of counsellors in Wellington last November.