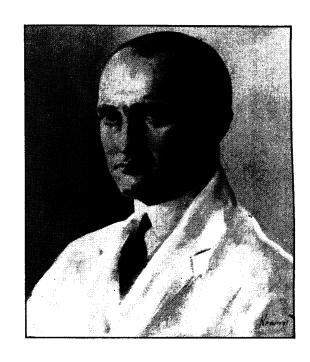


Hasten slowly

Festina Lente— a Psychiatric Odessey by Henry R Rollin

Henry Rollin insists that Festine Lente is "in no way an autobiography. I prefer to regard it essentially as a history of psychiatry during the past half century as seen by one who has been witness to and played some small part in the shaping of events." A former hospital consultant who has been a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunals and the



Parole Board as well as a consultant forensic psychiatrist to the Home Office, he is well qualified to comment on these events. The book includes his analysis of the history and evolution of Horton Hospital; the dissolution of mental hospitals and the myth of community care; outpatients departments; and the development of different physical and psychopharmacological treatments.

But one reason for "hastening slowly" is that life has many things to offer, and, as Henry Rollin says, "My interests were, and if truth be told, have continued to be, in the arts." He recalls, among other pleasures, attending London first nights with James Agate, going to Mindy's on Broadway with George Shearing, and founding the music society of an Oxford college and becoming its resident impresario. Psychiatry and the arts are combined in two chapters "The therapeutic use of music in a mental hospital" and "Literary excursions," which examines the characters of Hamlet, Bryon, George Bernard Shaw, and James Joyce. Appropriately, this psychiatric odyssey ends with the late arrival of true love.

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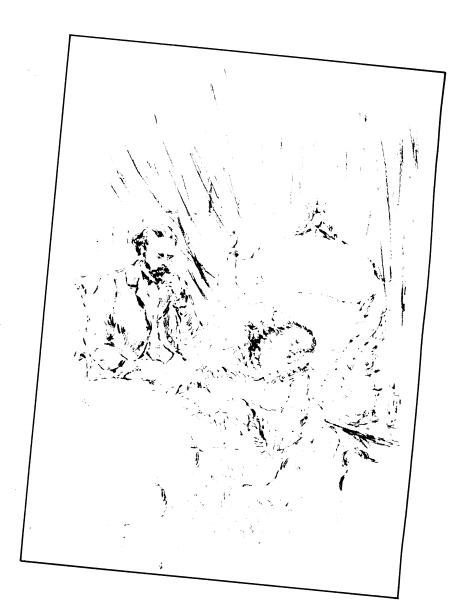
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edition Stephen Lock, present editor of the BMJ, places the novel in its literary and historical context and examines the character and achievements of Ernest Hart.

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