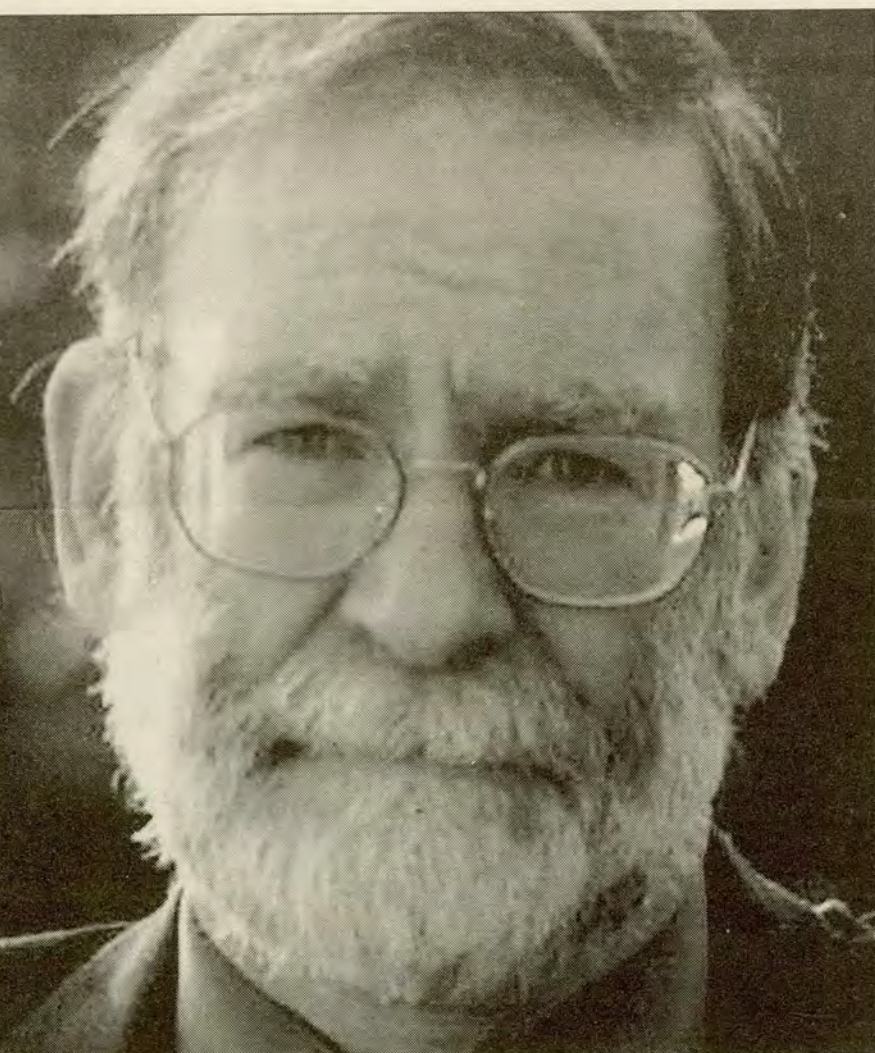


Two more Shipmans on the loose says top pathologist



KILLER: Harold Shipman committed suicide after murdering 215 patients

By **Andrea Perry** and **Clare Heal**

way cases are investigated." What little research exists suggests that medical professionals who murder are usually responsible for five to 10 deaths.

Mark Oaten, Lib Dem home affairs spokesman, said: "We mustn't always assume that violent crime will be committed by certain social types but professionals in a position of authority.

"They must always be monitored to make sure Shipman II doesn't happen."

It is thought similar crimes to that of Shipman are under-reported and Prof Forrest urges the use of personality tests to

in a million health care workers per year involved in crimes like this but now I think it must be higher.

"This is partly because we've got better at detecting them and partly because people are more willing to believe it and investigate when alarms are raised. But I don't think there are more than one or two a year. There may be six investigations a year but not all of those will lead to prosecution.

"A bar to investigating has always been the attitude of 'I don't believe it, nurses don't do things like this'.

"But the reality is that people join the ranks of the caring professions for all sorts of reasons. For some, intellectual curiosity about the human body and mind is the paramount reason. Others look for financial security or high esteem. But a few will have more complex reasons, founded in the darker emotions. And their motives differ, from matters of conviction like euthanasia or ethnic cleansing, to thrill-seeking or even being actively psychotic.

"Investigators and the police should not have an atmosphere of disbelief when the issue is first raised.

"Then they need to realise it is going to be a major investigation which is going to consume a lot of resources."

Rick Naylor, vice president of the Chief Superintendents' Association responded: "We are still waiting for the full report of the Shipman inquiry but the whole episode did show us that there were loopholes regarding death certification which need to be tightened. There were also problems with the coroner's reports."

West Yorkshire detectives are still probing the deaths of 18 patients who died at two hospitals in Leeds.

The inquiry was sparked by the death of Ethel Hall, 86, after a post mortem examination revealed that the retired shopkeeper, who was recovering from a hip operation, had an unusually high level of insulin in her blood.

This prompted the exhumation of an 88-year-old woman who was treated on the same ward as Mrs Hall at Leeds General Infirmary.

A male nurse, who is currently suspended, was arrested in connection with Mrs Hall's death and has been released on bail pending further inquiries.

'The police should not have an atmosphere of total disbelief when the issue is raised'

try to cut down the risk. Police in Greater Manchester faced criticism that they failed to act sooner to catch Shipman.

Prof Forrest came to his conclusions after examining cases including Angel of Death Beverly Allitt, who was found guilty of murdering three babies and an 11-year-old boy in Lincolnshire in 1993.

He said: "I think that what Beverly Allitt and Harold Shipman have done is made it possible for investigators to make sure that suspicions are not dismissed out of hand. No one believes now that doctors and nurses are not capable of killing patients."

Prof Forrest, of the Medico Legal Centre in Sheffield, and the city's deputy assistant coroner, has spent 10 years carrying out the only substantive research in Britain into the topic of "care workers who kill".

The phenomenon - CASK, or Carer Associated Serial Killings - has trademarks. Typically, victims are in vulnerable groups - the very old, the young and adults in intensive care.

He added: "I used to reckon it was one

TWO murderers like Dr Harold Shipman could still be preying on patients, an expert warned last night.

The chilling prediction comes in the wake of the prison suicide of Shipman who killed 215 mainly elderly people.

The warning is highlighted in research conducted by Professor Robert Forrest, a forensic toxicologist and pathologist.

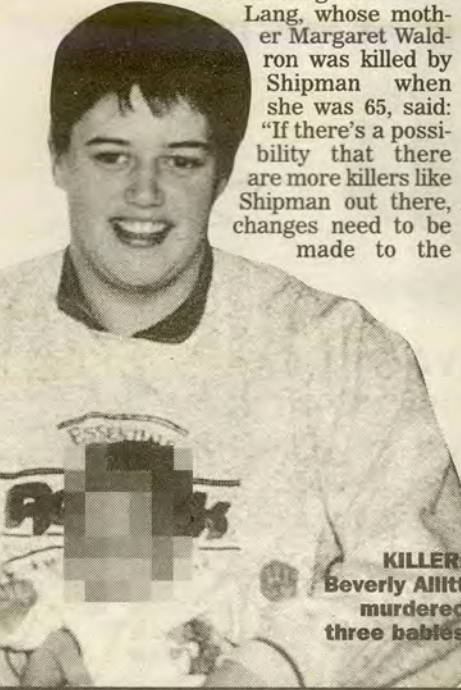
He says that nurses or doctors who deliberately harm their patients were once thought to be one in a million but there are at least six investigations each year into carers suspected of harming patients.

Last night there was an urgent demand for police to catch the two "new Shipmans".

A victim group called for the Government to set up a comprehensive register of complaints for people who have suspicions about their doctor.

Norman Brennan, director of the Victims of Crime Trust said: "We need a central register where people with suspicions against medical professionals can voice their concerns. If several complaints are lodged against the same individual they would then be investigated." Jude

Lang, whose mother Margaret Waldron was killed by Shipman when she was 65, said: "If there's a possibility that there are more killers like Shipman out there, changes need to be made to the



KILLER: Beverly Allitt murdered three babies

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