



- Evening of Urdu poetry for and by members of the College
- Courtauld Gallery art workshops with patients and staff at South Birmingham Mental Health Trust

November

- Film evening at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital for hospital staff
- Evening of music and Blake's poetry and prose for members at the College

December

- Christmas cabaret – an evening for, and by, members of the College

January 2002

- 2-month long exhibition at Courtauld Gallery of work produced on a workshop programme

- Evening of music for, and by, members at the College

February

- Film evening at College for members

March

- Evening of music at College for members

April

- Film evening at College for members

May

- Judging and exhibition of award-winning art competition entries, London

June

- 2001: Mind Odyssey events at Annual Meeting in Cardiff

For further information contact Alexi Weddenburn or Deborah Hart, tel: 020 7235 2351 exts 149/127.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists Winter Business Meeting 2001

The Winter Business Meeting of Council was held at the Royal College of Psychiatrists on 6 February 2001. Twenty-six Members of the College were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Winter Business Meeting held at the Royal College of Psychiatrists on 31 January 2001 were approved as a correct record.

Election of Honorary Fellows

The following were elected to the Honorary Fellowship:

The Lord John Thomas Alderdice
Professor Tom Arie CBE
Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland
Professor Eugene Paykel
Professor Roy Porter

obituary



Terrence Eric Lear

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist at St Crispin Hospital, Northampton

Terry Lear, group analyst and former consultant psychiatrist and psycho-

therapist, St Crispin and General Hospitals, Northampton, was born in Ilford and died suddenly in Southern Ireland on 24 August 2000. Prior to his appointment in Northampton, his post-graduate education with eminent tutors culminated at University College Hospital London with appointments in neurology and psychiatry. He studied medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, where he graduated in 1955. In 1974 he became a Fellow of both the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland and the Royal College of Psychiatrists of England and also qualified as a member of the Institute of Group Analysis, having been trained under S. H. Foulkes.

Early in his career as a general psychiatrist, he brought in new ideas long before they were adopted nationally, so helping to form multi-disciplinary consulting groups in the hospital and in the community, such as phase care for the elderly, general practitioner seminars by telephone link with the 'Balints' and a

therapeutic home for disturbed families. He went on to develop a dedicated psychotherapy service for Northamptonshire. Terry was psychiatric tutor from 1965 to 1975 and was chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee from 1965 to 1970. His work on groups flourished: he taught and lectured widely and served as president of the Group-Analytical Society from 1988 to 1991. His numerous publications included papers in neurology, psychiatry, psychotherapy and group analysis, as well as contributions to books and as editor of a book on group-analysis. Latterly, he became interested in, and wrote on, the psychological aspects of 'shame'.

He was President of the Northampton Medical Society at the time of his death. He will be so deeply missed by all who knew him for his kindness and compassion. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Kathleen, two sons, and three grandchildren.

Lawrence Lear & Amit Bhattacharyya

reviews

Will they do it again? Risk Assessment & Management in Criminal Justice and Psychiatry

By Herschel Prins. London: Routledge. 1999. 171 pp. £15.99 (pb). ISBN: 0-415-16018-9

There might be a temptation, given what Professor Soothill describes in his foreword to Professor Prin's book as the 'risk industry', and the way that it continues to grow, to dismiss yet another publication in this area as possibly having little to add to what we already know. That would be to miss the point, not least because the concepts of risk assessment

and management in psychiatry are here to stay. In addition, there is almost always something to learn in reading about them and equally, almost always something to reflect upon and even worry about in relation to one's own practice. This book is no exception. Although it covers a wide range of different areas, much of its content will be familiar to many



psychiatrists, particularly those working in the forensic field. It is, nevertheless, an easily understood, clear overview of the issues in relation to mentally disordered offenders (MDO) in particular and will be of value to those coming newly to the subject.

The introduction to risk as a general concept is interesting, if rather brief, and is followed by sections that review the work of some historically important Government committees, the functions of the mental health review tribunal and parole board, among others, and describe some of the research into the relationship between violence in its various forms, and mental disorder. Professor Prins brings to the book his own experience of working as a member of two inquiries, and describes certain others chosen, by his own admission, in a somewhat arbitrary manner but included in order to illustrate different points. I suspect that any member of the public, with little or no experience of people with mental illness or any form of mental disorder, who reads this will find it the most disturbing section. Why does it seem that the same sort of errors or omissions are made time and time again?

There might, perhaps, have been a more searching and extensive explanation of the difficulties that arise when attempting to equate the aims of mental health professionals and the criminal justice system in dealing effectively with MDOs, although some of these are raised. There is a description of a fictitious case conference and the participants from some of the various different professional groups who might be involved. Although in some places these caricatures may not be so recognisable, regrettably in others they still represent reality.

I was most anxious to reach the part of the book entitled 'Improving Practice'. Initially I found myself somewhat disappointed, but through no fault of the author. In reading about risk assessment and management one can become possessed by the search for revelation and the ultimate answer to the unanswerable question. We are encouraged by much of what we might see that relates to these areas to believe in the Holy Grail of absolute prevention. What Professor Prins does so successfully is to remind us that there is actually no such thing. Our efforts should be focused on maintaining high standards in relation to the basic elements of practice. We should obtain, record and share information, foster good communication and liaison with all those involved and maintain a degree of suspicion within appropriate professional limits, and ask questions accordingly. Perhaps one of the most important messages that we should be seeking to put across is that for some, death, not only their own but regrettably in some cases that of another person,

may be an entirely unpredictable and unpreventable but almost inevitable outcome in certain circumstances.

Martin Humphreys, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, Reaside Clinic, Birmingham Great Park, Birmingham B45 9BE

Talking cure. Mind and Method of the Tavistock Clinic

Edited by David Taylor. London: Duckworth. 1999. 203 pp. £14.95 (hb). ISBN: 0-7156-2924-7

A book to accompany a successful television series often fails to capture the spirit of the original, and very rarely transcends the visual medium. I enjoyed the television series, which largely managed to get across psychodynamic concepts in an accessible way. I was left, however, with an impression that the television director had chosen charismatic figures and had brought together the 'plot' in each episode but left viewers still uncertain of what the Tavistock as an institution stands for.

This book is far more than a book to support the television series: it is a rich and resonant account of the practice and theory underlying psychoanalytic approaches to therapy. That would be enough to earn a recommendation for libraries, but the book goes well beyond an account of psychoanalytic practice. It takes a life-cycle view and cleverly weaves in issues of groups, families and institutions that have been central to the work of the Tavistock.

The style is a compelling mix of clinical and observational anecdotes, linked to clear expositions of some complex theoretical ideas. These are salted with humour and some excellent plate photographs. Black and white photographic plates might not have been allowed if this had been published directly by the BBC, but, the relatively simple technology is extremely powerful in conveying emotional meaning. For example, there are stills from the Robertsons' cine-film of Laura adjacent to an image of the Madonna and child, to show the physicality of infant desire, and a further image of two youths and a boy looking at the camera with 'frozen watchfulness'. These images add poignancy to the text that is already saturated with meaning.

Although I enjoyed the book greatly, the authors are also clear in setting out a position that can be contested. For example, the excellent chapters covering childhood make assumptions about the development of cognition and memory that do not sit easily with modern developmental psychology. On the other hand, the book tackles the very difficult theme of childhood sexuality and aggres-

sion in a way that presents Melanie Klein in an accessible way.

I had expected to review a book that gave an interesting set of programme notes to the television series. The book does indeed complement the series in this way, but goes far beyond that. The Tavistock is a diverse institution, and the editor has done something of real value in this synthesis. In the chapter 'What causes the mind?' there is a discussion of Proust who "understood that memory and imagination have to be sought actively, too, by mental effort". This book is evidence of the effort to develop a style of psychoanalytic thinking that characterises the Tavistock.

I would recommend the book to a medical student struggling to understand family reaction to the death of an infant, to a psychiatric trainee who is curious about psychoanalysis, to a friend making sense of a hostile work environment and to seasoned colleagues who knew the theory but would welcome the clinical depth. The book could be read sequentially to give a chronological and developmental overview, linked to particular episodes of the television series, used as a basis for a reading seminar or dipped into and enjoyed.

Frank Margison, Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychotherapy, Gaskell Psychotherapy Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Swinton Grove, Manchester M13 0EU

Forget Me Not. Mental Health Services for Older People

By the Audit Commission. London: Audit Commission. 2000. 190 pp. £20.00 (pb). ISBN: 1-86240-203-5

Everyone involved with services for the elderly with mental illness should welcome this report from the Audit Commission. Effectively a bench marking exercise covering England and Wales during 2000 and 2001, this is the first time the auditors have attended to this area of clinical practice. By involving NHS trusts, health authorities, social service departments, the independent sector, carers and primary care it is the first attempt by the Commission to evaluate working across agencies with a strong emphasis on 'joined-up working'.

This first report includes 12 anonymised areas and provides comparative data about the commissioning and resourcing of services and methods of service delivery, with a good deal of opinion from carers and primary care. Bar charts make the data easy to view and each of the six sections conclude with clear and convincing recommendations. There are valuable