Editorial

George Miller (1969), in his Presidential Address to the American Psychological Association, expressed the opinion that "scientific psychology is potentially one of the most revolutionary intellectual enterprises ever conceived by the mind of man" (p. 1065). He goes on to argue why he considers this to be the case and how psychological knowledge might be a means of promoting human welfare. In doing so he stresses the importance of giving psychology away.

Over the years, Behaviour Therapists have certainly shared this view and have sought not only to give their techniques away but also to have accepted, by society at large, the model of behaviour upon which their therapeutic endeavours are based. In this they have been moderately successful, even if much remains to be achieved.

Something of the success of giving away the behavioural approach is illustrated in this Special Issue. All the authors of the case studies reported are persons working in various settings and in positions which do not obviously define them as behaviour therapists, but they have adopted the behavioural approach and have incorporated it into their working practices. They are to be congratulated and encouraged.

I should like to thank Janet Carr who is the Guest Editor of this Special Issue. She has been, over the years, a key person in encouraging the dissemination of the behavioural approach. I hope that the work reported here will encourage others to further, if not the revolutionary potential, at least the therapeutic benefits to be derived from giving away the behavioural approach.

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Reference

MILLER, G. A. (1969. Psychology as a means of promoting human welfare. American Psychologist 24, 1063–1075.

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