

people individually, their parents and families.

Possible ways in which these placements can be organised to meet the agreed training objectives with regard to learning disability are suggested as follows:

- (a) Experience with children and adolescents with learning difficulties and learning disabilities can be gained by attendance with a child development team, by linking with youth offending teams for the assessment of learning disabled young offenders, or by linking with local learning disability services in relation to children and to adolescents in transition to adult

services. Most child psychiatry services also see children with mild/moderate learning disability.

- (b) Experience with adults with learning disability can be gained by working with local community learning disability teams. These teams are multi-disciplinary and provide the opportunity to work with adults with a range of disabilities and difficulties both in family and residential settings.

Approximately one session per week or equivalent, over the course of the 6-month placement, should be spent in working with patients with learning disabilities and their families. Selected visits to special schools (day or residen-

tial), adult training centres and voluntary sector services will provide an understanding of the range of local resources.

The educational supervisor should meet the trainee weekly and ensure that this discussion includes an integration of the learning opportunities that have been provided by the placement, in particular, with regard to their experience with patients with learning disabilities and their families and the issues that have arisen for the trainee with respect to this experience. Regular supervision with the supervisory consultant or with other senior professional staff should be provided for the learning disability component of the placement.

obituaries



Dr Thomas Farewell

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Napsbury Hospital, St Albans, Herts

Tom Farewell was born in 1922 and was educated at Malvern College and the New Royal London hospital. For 10 years after qualifying he worked in accident and orthopaedic surgery at the New Royal London and other hospitals. His interest in human consciousness led him to a career in psychiatry and in 1959 he came to Napsbury Hospital as a senior house officer. Napsbury Hospital, with its connection to the Tavistock, was a hotbed of explorations into the dynamics of schizophrenia. Aaron Esterson explored the reality beneath schizophrenic obfuscations and Denis Scott was actively researching interpersonal perception in families with schizophrenia. Awareness of the effects of incarceration on the individual led them to explore the concept of closure – the point in the schizophrenia process when all human relations are cut and the experience is perceived as alien. Together with Scott, Ratna and Montanez, he developed the Napsbury Crisis Service. Though crisis services are part of the National Service Framework, in 1971 it was a highly controversial policy. It evoked a storm of opposition, and in an age dominated by finance it is incredible

that such a 24-hour community service was developed and successfully run without funding, resources or support. It remains the oldest, largest and most comprehensive community crisis service in the world.

Tom was influential in developing the concept of *furore* – or pseudocrisis, which was the echo of a past crisis and not a point of change or growth. He was also innovative within the hospital, becoming actively involved in rehabilitation. He organised the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit and was later involved in creating the Industrial Therapy Organisation in the North-West Thames region. Tom foresaw the IT revolution and set up the Protechnic system, which was one of the first computer-based comprehensive patient information systems for psychiatry in the NHS.

Tom took a deep and abiding interest in policy development and administration. In the 1960s he was one of the joint founders of the Junior Hospital Doctors Association and later, as Chairman of the North-West Thames Regional Junior Doctors, he was a member of the Executive of the Junior Hospital Doctors' Group of the British Medical Association (BMA). As a consultant, he became Chairman of the North-West Thames Committee for Hospital Medical Services and was a member of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services of the BMA. He served on numerous other committees in the hospital, the region and the BMA, as well as on working parties and tribunals for the Department of Health.

Tom remained at Napsbury Hospital until his retirement from the NHS in 1987. However, he remained active in psychiatry and held a post as consultant to the Metropolitan Police until 1995.

In recent years he maintained some professional interest by lecturing on crisis work and other aspects of psychiatry, but enjoyed his leisure walking and gardening

in a much-loved corner of Devon. He also took much pleasure in travelling extensively, particularly in Australia.

Tom will also be remembered for his brilliance as a raconteur and speaker. He spoke at many national and international conferences where he would hold the audience spellbound. He spoke without notes and never prepared his talks. As a clinician, he was a model communicator with an ability to sum up complex situations in a few vivid, pithy and insightful sentences.

Tom died on 21 June 2000. He leaves a wife, Joan, a son and a daughter.

Lawrence Ratna

Augustus Charles Robin Skynner

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Group Analytic Practice, London

Robin Skynner, wartime Royal Air Force (RAF) bomber pilot, psychiatric pioneer and innovator, child psychiatrist, family therapist and writer, died in October 2000, aged 78.

This most unusual and highly talented man was born on 16 August 1922 of local stock at Charleston, Cornwall. He was the eldest of five boys and Robin freely admits that he bitterly resented the advent of each and every sibling. So deep was the resentment that he claims it was at the root of an unhappy and rebellious childhood, as well as the cause of an embarrassing stammer.

He was educated at St Austell County School and Blundells, after which, at the age of 18, he volunteered for the RAF and was selected as a prospective bomber pilot. He was adversely affected by the shared destruction and slaughter he was obliged to carry out, an experience that, for a variety of complex reasons, drew him to psychiatry as an eventual vocation.

To this end, after demobilisation, he enrolled as a student at University College Hospital and qualified MB, BS (Lond) in 1952. As soon as possible he began his psychiatric training and in 1957 he passed the Diploma of Psychological Medicine, and then in 1971 he was elected MRCPsych, proceeding FRCPsych in 1976.

But it was at the Maudsley where Skynner, owing undoubtedly to the powerful influence of the distinguished émigré-psychiatrist, Dr S. H. Foulhes, found his feet and began to shape his future.

Thus, in 1959, Skynner, together with fellow disciples of their guru, Dr Foulhes,

founded the Group Analytic Practice. A logical development was the emergence of the Institute of Group Analysis for the specific purpose of giving training in group therapy. However, it was Skynner himself who in 1977 founded the Institute of Family Therapy and chaired it for the next 2 years.

The important posts he successfully filled were senior tutor (psychotherapy) at the Institute of Psychiatry, honorary assistant consultant psychiatrist at Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospital and physician in charge of the Department of Psychiatry at Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, London.

But, even if all else failed, Skynner will be remembered for his prolific writing, particularly for two of his books; *Institutes and How to Survive Them* (1989) and *Families and How to Survive Them* (1975). The latter was co-written with the actor John Cleese of *Fawlty Towers* fame and proved to be a blockbuster: it sold 353 000 copies and was translated into 10 languages.

Robin Skynner married twice: the first in 1948 to Geraldine Foley was dissolved in 1959. That same year he married Prudence Fawcett, who died in 1987. He leaves a son and a daughter of his second marriage.

Henry H. Rollin

miscellany

Independent Psychiatrists Group

The Independent Psychiatrists Group has been established by a number of doctors working substantially in private clinical or medico-legal practice to assist those who

are not working in managed organisations to meet continuing medical education (CME) requirements and to represent the views of such doctors, in particular, with respect to CME and revalidation. Monthly educational meetings have been arranged in London for those who are able to attend and occasional meetings in

London and the North of England are being planned. The secretary of the group is Dr Duncan Veasey and he would be delighted to hear from any other Member or Fellow of the College who would like to join the group. Dr Veasey can be contacted on tel no 01305 852457.

forthcoming events

The Clinical Governance Support Service (CGSS) at The Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research Unit is organising **Clinical Governance in Forensic Mental Health**, an event taking place on 13 June 2001 in London. For information about this event please contact CGSS on tel no 020 7227 0829. The College Research Unit is also organising a 1-day multi-professional conference entitled **Old Age Psychiatric Day Hospitals: Current Developments and Messages from Latest Research**. The conference will be held on 21 June 2001 and further information can be obtained from Jo Baker (tel: 020 7227 0827; e-mail: joanne1.baker@virgin.net).

Gardiner-Caldwell Communications and the Institute of Neurology are the organisers of a meeting entitled **Seizures, Affective Disorders and Anticonvulsant Drugs**. The meeting will take place on 22 June 2001 in Berlin, Germany. For further information please visit the website address <http://www.sadad2001.com> or contact Jackie Ashmenall, Conference Coordinator, St Aidan, Ealing Green, Ealing, W5 5EN (tel: 020 7829 8743; fax: 020 7278 3053; e-mail: jashmenall@yahoo.com).

The UK network of the International Society for the Psychological Treatments of Schizophrenia and other Psychoses (ISPS) has organised a multi-disciplinary conference entitled **Psychosis – The Therapeutic Relationship in Individuals and Families Affected by Psychosis**. Taking place on 13–14 September 2001 at the University of Reading, this conference will explore the nature of the therapeutic relationship in the many approaches to persons with psychoses in its different phases and contexts. The conference is for all psychiatrists and other mental health professionals. Continuing professional development approval has been given. For further information please contact Bell Howe Conferences (ISPS) (tel/fax: 0115 846 9086; e-mail: ISPS@bellhowecon.demon.co.uk).

The University College London Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences is inviting applications for a 2-year part-time **MSc in Psychiatric Theory and Research** starting in October 2001. The MSc is intended for senior house officers and specialist registrars in psychiatry and aims to provide a firm grounding in research methodology. In the first year students will be required

to attend two afternoons per week and in the second year students will conduct a research project under supervision and submit a 15 000-word dissertation. Places on the course are limited to 15 students, so early application is advisable. For an application form and prospectus please contact Linda Dutton, Course Administrator (tel: 020 7679 9475; e-mail: l.dutton@ucl.ac.uk).

The **17th World Congress of Social Psychiatry** will be held in Agra, India, on 27–31 October 2001. Formally sponsored by the World Health Organization, World Psychiatric Association, National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Human Rights Commission of India, the congress promises high quality presentations and scientific sessions by eminent speakers in the field of psychiatry and allied areas. The registration form, abstract form and accommodation form can be downloaded from the congress website at <http://www.17thwaspcongress.com>. For congress brochures please contact the 17th WASP Congress Secretariat, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), G. T. Road, Dilshad Garden, PO Box 9520, Delhi 110095, India (tel: +91 11 2114025; fax: +91 11 2299227; e-mail: wasp.congress@vsnl.com).

corrigenda

On page 114 of the paper by Cree *et al* (*Psychiatric Bulletin*, March, **25**, 114–116), in the 'Results' section of the 'Abstract', the final sentence should read: "The most effective treatment may be a

combination of terazosin and benzotropine."

On page 155 of the correspondence column, at the end of the letter entitled "The limited value of the annual physical

health examination in long-term secure care" (*Psychiatric Bulletin*, April, **25**, 154–155) the name of the author **David Brabiner**, Specialist Registrar in Forensic Psychiatry, was omitted.