

B.A.B.P. BULLETIN

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOURAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

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The British Association for Behavioural Psychotherapy was founded in 1972. It is a multidisciplinary organisation and full membership is restricted to members of the helping professions - psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, probation officers, teachers, etc.

Objects of the Association

(a) To promote the advancement of the theory and practice of behavioural psychotherapy, in particular the application of experimental methodology and learning techniques to the assessment and modification of maladaptive behaviour in a wide variety of settings.

(b) To provide a forum for discussion of matters relevant to behavioural psychotherapy.

(c) To disseminate information about and provide training for behavioural psychotherapy, by organising conferences, courses, and workshops or by other means.

(d) To print, publish and circulate newsletters, reports and other publications containing articles, information and news relating to behavioural psychotherapy.

(e) To make representation to, and to establish and maintain liaison with, public and professional bodies.

(f) To foster and promote research into behavioural psychotherapy, and related matters.

(g) To establish and organise, regional or specialist branches in order to promote the objects of the Association and to provide a service to members.

(h) To encourage and assist in training in behavioural psychotherapy.

(i) To study matters of concern to behaviour therapists and to take such action as is consistent with the objects of the Association and in the public interest.

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ARTICLES

THE TREATMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OF A NUMBER OF CASES OF ELECTIVE MUTISM. By Dr. L.F. Lowenstein, M.A. Dip.Psych., Ph.D. Former County Senior Psychologist, Hampshire and Lowenstein K., Independent Consultant Psychologist, 'Blue Cedars', Milnthorpe Lane, Winchester, Hampshire.

Research into the problem of elective mutism and functional speech disorders has not been excessive during the past 10 years. Previous to this, however, Black (1966) drew attention to the fact that speech problems have occurred throughout history, and problems of stuttering were recorded in hieroglyphics by the ancient Egyptians.

Early research attempted to explain the relationship between language and the thinking process by investigating the interaction between hearing and speech impediments. Fontes (1964) investigated this and noted that there appeared to be a relationship between language and thinking and that speech was vital in the emotional life of the individual. Aronson, Peterson and Litin (1966) investigated 27 patients with functional voice disorders and discovered that in the majority of cases a chronic situation of conflict was seen to be partly based on a form of hysteria, or problems related to maximal or minimal brain damage. They investigated developmental aphasia and found developmental dyslexia to be acquired from brain damage. Tramer (1934) defined elective mutism as a condition in which the individual was able to