

no-one at home to look after it. It seemed natural to both Tom Main and his nursing staff that a mother and child should be together and, having given due consideration to the many issues involved, both were admitted. From this event many carefully considered developments took place, one of which was the formal establishment of an in-patient family unit.

It was also in the field of training that Tom Main won respect and admiration. Almost a quarter of the members of the British Psychoanalytic Society have been on the staff of the Cassel and have at one time or another been trained by him. Again, there was his well known work with general practitioners and doctors working in the Family Planning Association, where he employed the training seminar techniques developed by Balint. It was here that he used his psychoanalytic insights to help the general practitioner study, and have a fuller understanding of, the doctor/patient relationship and its transactions. On the other hand with the doctors concerned in the Family Planning Association, he not only helped them study and understand the psycho-sexual problems of their patients, but also showed how to develop new techniques of treatment. Later, he helped found the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine of which he was Life President.

A few months ago, a selection of 16 papers was published out of the 50 or more papers written by Main. Although some of them were written over 30 years ago, they remain fresh and pertinent to the

issues of today. While 'The Ailment' might be among the better known, his paper 'Psychoanalysis as a Crossbearing', which was presented to the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in 1967, was particularly important in bridging the gap between psychiatry and psychoanalysis, a gap that Main sought to bridge in so much of his work throughout his career.

Following his retirement from the National Health Service, Main continued his work with the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine, with general practitioner seminars and he continued to psychoanalyse his patients until just a few weeks before he died. He faced his death as he had faced life, with courage, curiosity and anger at losing his loved ones.

He leaves behind his wife, Dr Agnes M. (Molly) Main and four children. He first met his wife when they were both medical students and she too practised as a psychoanalyst. Of their four children two became psychiatrists, one of whom, Jennifer, is also a psychoanalyst and was responsible for the publication of the selection of Main's papers mentioned above.

Many honours were bestowed upon Tom Main, including Fellowships and travelling Professorships. He was Vice-President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, from 1973-75 and chairman of the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section from 1955-57 and from 1968-70. In addition, he was editor of the *British Journal of Medical Psychology* and a founder member of the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations.

JDT

## Lecture

The British Psycho-Analytical Society announce that Richard Holmes will give the 1990 Ernest Jones Lecture *Biographer's Footsteps* at Friends House,

Euston Road, London NW1 on 7 November 1990 at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

## Seminars

A seminar entitled *Anxiety and Depression: from basics and clinical research to therapeutic trials of new anxiolytics* will be held on 26 October 1990 (speakers Drs David Nutt, Stuart Montgomery and Sheila Handley) and one on *Benzodiazepine Dependence: the critical issues* on 22 November 1990 (speakers

Diana Brahams, Drs David Nutt and Peter Tyrer). Both seminars will be at the Cavendish Hotel, Jermyn Street, London W1. Registration: Management Forum Ltd, 48 Woodbridge Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RL (telephone 0483 570099; fax 0483 36424).