



psychiatric unit an accepted part of the general hospital.

He leaned to the apprentice model of psychiatric training and he was an exemplary trainer. Once a trainee had worked for him, he became the gold standard. His former trainees recall their experiences of him with pleasure and gratitude and remember him personally with affection. He was of distinguished appearance and had considerable energy. Those who worked with him knew that the dryness of manner which he sometimes displayed readily gave way to warmth. He had a sharp sense of humour, and generosity and concern for others underpinned his actions.

In addition to his responsibilities at Stobhill General Hospital, at the request of the procurator-fiscal, over many years he examined persons accused of serious offences. His published work in this area highlighted the importance of alcohol as a major factor in serious offences. His forensic reports, as well as his clinical notes and letters, contained vivid thumbnail sketches, while at the same time being characterised by lucid and felicitous expression and astute judgment. He was one of the most respected Scottish psychiatrists of his generation. He retired in 1976.

He was a private man. In his younger days, he enjoyed sailing – especially off the west coast of Scotland. He maintained an interest in cooking into his later years.

In 1948, he married Mrs Isabelle Canay of Sydney, who died in 1983. In 1987, he married Mrs Margaret Richmond of Oxfordshire and relocated there. She survives him.

Hamilton Frame



Dr John Richard Theobalds

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist,
Lancaster Health Authority

John Theobalds was born on 26 July 1923 and died from lung cancer on 28 June 2002.

He received his medical education at Westminster Hospital and qualified from there MRCS Eng., LRCP Lond and MB, BS, Lond., in 1947. After national service, mainly at a military hospital in Egypt, he returned home and worked in general medicine hospitals at Westminster and the Royal Salop Hospital, before deciding on a career in psychiatry.

To this end he served as Registrar at Park Prenett Hospital, Basingstoke and later was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist, Lancaster Health Authority and Medical Director, Priority Services NHS Trust, Lancaster. He gained the DPM, Eng in 1960, was elected MRCPsych in 1971 and proceeded FRCPsych in 1986.

John's major interest was in the treatment of alcoholism and drug abuse and he opened Harvey House, currently relocated in the community in Lancaster, and was a founder trustee and committee member of Inward House, a residential therapeutic community for the treatment of drug and solvent misusers.

John's interests were widespread. He loved sport, particularly soccer: he was a lifetime Arsenal supporter and succeeded at one time to be given a trial for Chelsea! He enjoyed reading poetry and listening to music, particularly traditional jazz.

He leaves behind him his second wife, Brenda, whom he married in 1980.

Mohammed Abdul Halim

reviews

Child Psychiatry and Child Protection Litigation

By Julia Brophy with Louise Brown, Suzanne Cohen and Polly Radcliffe. London: Gaskell. 2001. 160 pp. £20.00 (hb). ISBN: 1-901242-66-8

This book is calling for a revolution in the way public child care law is supported by child psychiatry. Children caught up in care proceedings or under secure orders, or those with severe educational difficulties have a much greater need of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and yet are not usually seen as a priority. Many CAMHS are reluctant to take on this work when the family, child or young person is presented as a piece of 'court work'. Ideally, these troubled families and young people would already be known by their local service and, if court intervention were needed, it would be part of the CAMHS work and any advised interventions could be then carried out locally. Of course, there would always be some complex cases that needed an outside expert opinion or where a second opinion was more appropriate. However, the bulk of this work, as



with looked after children, should be part of a local CAMHS.

Sadly, this is far from the reality, and Julia Brophy has set out to explore and document the current position. In this book, she interviews child and adolescent psychiatrists; six 'national' experts and 11 local consultants. The volume begins with

a review of the Children Act 1989 and the context within which work in a public law court is undertaken. She explores how the Act has caused a considerable growth in the demand for child and adolescent mental health input into the decision-making process, both to determine significant harm, particularly in relation to emotional abuse, and also to assist the court in considering future options for the child, young person and family.

This is followed by a discussion of the NHS structure and the contractual arrangements that have led to the bulk of this court work being seen as category 2 work, i.e. outside the usual NHS contract. Brophy considers how this system has resulted in waiting lists and the random uptake of cases when consultants who are willing to do the work have time to do so. Is this a good way to provide vulnerable families with a service? She goes on to discuss the problems that arise when an expert opinion recommends an intervention the local service cannot or will not provide.

The implications for this public law work are considered, given the government proposal for the new consultant contract. If many experts are approaching



columns

retirement age and junior consultants cannot undertake private work for 7 years, what will happen? Many consultants are reluctant to undertake the court work and junior consultants will not be allowed to do so. Will the service depend on a bank of retired consultants? Is this desirable? Of course, some of the work can be managed in this way but it is not in the best interest of the children and families to have them mainly excluded from their CAMHS, and training specialist registrars will be more problematic.

The chapter dealing with the contributions child psychiatrists bring to court work is rich in quotations which show the diversity and commitment of colleagues and also demonstrate some arrogance. It is hard to pin down what we contribute but it is clear that we do and what we put in our reports is given considerable weight, particularly when considering risk, future placement and intervention. The book debates the use of a single expert, jointly instructed, or several experts who

meet and discuss as a multi-disciplinary team.

The clinical and legal agendas are discussed, how the two discourses coincide or diverge and the implications of this for the children and families. There is an interesting debate on whether the lawyers are changing clinical practice or the psychiatrists are educating the lawyers and the courts. For example, the 'facts' in a court report that lead to a diagnosis of emotional abuse. Is there a need for hard evidence or will soft evidence and clinical judgement be more useful in conveying the issues that need to be decided? This leads to a revisitation of the value, or not, of the adversarial approval. All those interviewed valued the fact that their opinion was being discussed, debated and cross-examined, but then these consultants are doing court work and those unwilling to be questioned are not.

The book ends with the author's recognition that the family justice system

is now a multi-professional, multi-agency domain, and that changes in policy and practice evolve through a range of forums when issues are discussed, training initiatives are developed and future outcomes are monitored.

This is an interesting book, easy to read and an important text for child and adolescent psychiatrists, those in family court work, social workers, those involved in the Children and Families Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS), lawyers and CAMHS professionals. Julia Brophy highlights problems and concerns that need to be addressed if these children, young people and families are to have access to the service, support and interventions they need.

Judith Trowell Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Member of the President's Interdisciplinary Committee of the Family Division, Child and Family Department, The Tavistock Clinic

miscellany

John Snowdon, a Fellow of the College, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2003 Australia Day Honours List

Lately chairman of the psychogeriatricians in the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, John Snowdon, trained at St Thomas's and the Maudsley. He is Director of Psychogeriatrics for Central Sydney and Associate Clinical Professor at Sydney University. Professor

Snowdon has worked in Australia for the past quarter of a century, playing a key part there in the development of psychiatric services for older people, and he writes widely on clinical and service research and policy. He is a frequent visitor to the UK.

forthcoming events

The **VIII European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS) 2003** will be held in Berlin, Germany on 22–25 May 2003. The European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ESTSS) invites you to enjoy a wide-ranging scientific programme that offers the opportunity to enhance knowledge in the fields of extreme stress and psychotraumatology. All scientists and mental health professionals working with trauma, service personnel, non-governmental organisation-officers, voluntary agencies and lawyers are warmly welcome. For further details, please visit [\[conference-berlin.de\]\(http://www.trauma-conference-berlin.de\). Alternatively, please contact the conference organisers: Scientific Secretariat, VIII ECOTS Berlin 2003, c/o Catholic University of Applied Social Sciences, Koepenicker Allee 39–57, D-10318 Berlin \(tel: +493050 10 10 54; fax +493050 10 10 88\).](http://www.trauma-</p>
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Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust would like to announce that they are holding a one-day **Depression seminar/workshop** at the Postgraduate Centre on the Hospital Campus on Friday, 30 May 2003. The seminar/workshop is aimed at all members of community mental health

teams; general practitioners; counsellors; nurses; social workers; and all those who wish to gain a better understanding of what depression is, why it is on the increase and how to diagnose it. Practical help will be given to help break the patterns of depression, give new insights into the dissociative elements of depressed thinking styles and much more. For further information, please contact Jane Gurnett, Secretary, Psychotherapy Department, Milton Keynes PCT (tel: 01908 243 134; E-mail: gurnett.jane@mkc-tr.anglox.nhs.uk).