

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 *furere* – 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.