

## Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

**ARNOLD COLIN WOODMANSEY, formerly Consultant in Child and Family Psychiatry in Sheffield and Honorary Lecturer in Psychotherapy, University of Sheffield**

Colin Woodmansey died aged 74 on 11 January 1992 following acute exacerbation of a chronic pulmonary disease. After gaining a BSc he read medicine at Leeds, graduating MB, ChB in 1942. Following service in the Royal Army Medical Corps he returned to Leeds where he obtained his MD in 1949. Over the next few years he worked in and around London obtaining his DPM, MRCP, and DCH while training as a psychoanalyst. In 1961 he moved to Sheffield and ten years later became a Foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

He read very widely and accumulated a large personal library, part of which has now been donated as the basis of the library for analytical psychotherapy in Sheffield. He was a logical thinker and an obsessively careful writer. He published some 30 papers, the first of which appeared in 1966 and was a major contribution to psychoanalytic theory: it concerned the development of the punitive superego. In the same year he published a second paper outlining for non-analysts this process, its role in the development of psychiatric illness, and its implications for treatment. Over the next 25 years he continued to develop and promote these ideas, often against considerable hostility from analysts and non-analysts alike: this opposition never ceased to surprise me (though I am certain it came as no surprise to him) since the theory led inevitably to a practice which depended on the provision of a therapeutic relationship which was guaranteed to be free of hostility on the part of the therapist. Although he drew considerably on Freudian con-

cepts, his logical approach led him to be critical of much of Freudian theory. At the time of his death Colin had almost completed a book questioning some of Freud's fundamental pronouncements and suggesting amendments of crucial importance for prevention and treatment. There are hopes that this important book will be published.

He had a keen interest in teaching psychiatrists, doctors, medical students, and others in the caring professions. Those who came to him wanting a lecture or advice were usually disappointed since his intention was always to treat their problems (internal or external) which prevented them from helping their patients. Some could not accept this approach, others received an immense amount of help and were consequently in a much better position to resolve their patients' difficulties. As a result there are a large number of patients (and professionals) who never knew him (or even of him) but who are much better off because of him.

GRAHAM CHAPMAN

### **The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

HENRIQUE JOAD-BARAHONA-FERNANDES, Rua Actor Antonio Silva, 5-80, D-1600 Lisbon, Portugal.

JOHN MARNOCH CLEGHORN, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario 3Z5, Canada.

PETER SINCLAIR HUGHES, General Practice, Bitterne Surgery, 62 West End Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO2 4TG.

NORMAN LANGDON-DOWN, formerly Medical Superintendent, Normansfield, Teddington, Middlesex.

DARRELL MELVILLE SWARRIES, retired Consultant Psychiatrist, 14 Forest Lawns, 33 Orchard Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 2TG.

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## National survey of brief psychotherapy

The Psychotherapy Section of the Department of Psychiatry at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals Medical School is carrying out a survey of the prevalence and range of forms of brief therapy practised in the UK today. We are using the term brief therapy to include all kinds of psychotherapeutic intervention where the intention is to provide a brief or time-limited treatment (i.e. an agreed contract for a given number of sessions).

We are interested to identify the models of treatment, and the rationale for choosing brief therapy from both the patients' perspective and also that of service provision.

We would be interested in any comments you may have. For further details, please contact Mark Dunn on 071-955-4822 or write to him at The Munro Clinic, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT.