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945 tion of evolving systems—for example, embryogenesis, nowsh od development, and family dynamics—and provide us with occupiez realities of our patients bodies and live. The second second systems of the system of the second factor of the second systems of the system of the second provide second systems of the space to work out one's own on divide the second system of the system of the second to second systems of the system of the system of the second provide second systems of the system of the second systems of the second system of the second system of the second systems, nor relaciantly but in the full understanding that to fail to do is in its inhibit the chance for them to find second systems of the second system of the second system of the consulting room, and yet our medical view point offer forces us to give its and presentive would significant forces us to give its and presentive would significant the its second systems of the second system of the second system is a second system of the second system of the second system of the diverse of the dury of the future to almost work the present into which it is being born. The paradigm of left organisation gives a bad deeg to this and real hops of a paradise that the second system of the second system of the second system of the future might not be as dive as it often seems. Perhaps a part of a left organisation gives a bad real site of the second system of the future in the organisation gives a bad real site of the second system of the second s

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sTUDENT DR88 IN 1817 IN BRITCOL In *The Biographical Memorr:* Britel Jeffmary (Vol XL p 130) there is a letter from the students to the bioorary staff, it concerns the cutomary dress the students at the bioorary staff, it concerns the cutomary dress the students at the student of the student of this hospital, and well knowing your respectibility we be glasses to to offer to your notice and approbation or respectibility, we be glasses to to offer to your notice and approbation use. We know it to be your with the students should always appear during the hours of business in their gowns, and if we have not uni-formly to does, it has artise, not from any interious to counterest we hould be down of the University Student with some modific-tion in the student should always appear a the Cog and Gown of the University Student with some modific-tion work without hit cap and gown-except in cases of proper at the cOg and Gown in exchange for the frozen our without the ourder of the student should always appear to compare the student should be appeared by the students and pupping in this house by some characterizit mark and conceive none to proper at the Cog and Gown of the University Student with some modific-tion the work without hit cap and gown -except in cases of proper-tion and the organic ourselven to product students and pupping endition ourselven nor fully we have daded a sherth of what we propose.'' Thai letter was followed by cleven signatures.

CHARITY AND DECENCY Scene—Out-painnt's Receiving Room in an Hepital, not an handred miles from Smithfuld. Present—EUGODOS, PUTLS JATIENTA ROOM CONTRACTION WORKS (addressing the Sorgeon) my thigh, MURGON. It's no use, my good woman, 1 ser what it is (addressing the madem). It's an old case of dissease thip-ionin, gentle-men. Poor works. I shall be very thankful. Sin, if you will place look at it. I have suffered greatly a very long time. Eurodon. It's no use It.

say; I can do nothing for you. POOR WOMAN (with her hand half-concelled, twiring a sourceigh betwaen her fiquer and thamb). I with, Sir, you would please to look at it, if it was only for a moment; it woulds a very prest attifaction to me: structure, Well-well; at it down, my to you. POOR WOMAN. Thank you, Six hald's, matconent; it woulds to you. POOR WOMAN. Thank you, Six hald's, matconent, Well a moment if for you (handing a prescription). Here my good woman. POOR WOMAN (thing the prescription), Here my good woman. POOR WOMAN (thing the prescription), Here my good woman. (The pilded bate a one catabat the heart yo of the hammer surgeon, who could places it in his pre-bay. Structure (to students). Respectible woman that—"Bati: (Lanext, 185-700);23(5).

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# Thinking About the Unthinkable

## Death of a partner

#### R J R LEWIS

Any nother used to tell me that the recipe for a happy and successful armership requires a similar duet. Twenty friend. A successful partnership requires a similar duet. Twenty this a uside approach to general practice and continued happily until last summer. Two brash young may achieve water to pay terms, golf, sail, motor race, or climb a uside paynets to general practice and power had to this, bouch due to uside interests were totally disimilar. We chose to join forces so that we never wanted to pay terms, golf, sail, motor race, or climb nountains all at the same time. Only two of the partners were totally disimilar. We chose to join forces so that we never wanted to pay terms and the only two of the partners were totally disimilar. We chose to join forces so that we never wanted to pay terms, golf, sail, motor seys having howeldge and give mutual help. From the beginning of ur-or data other are change to other was not aching because we have that, although we each had a slightly different approach to particular problems, at the each for a two man set up to reserving the site index. These partners may the site guiled mercilesity about ensuing that the conev was in the site guiled mercilesity about ensuing that the conev was in the site guiled mercilesity about ensuing that the conev was in the site guiled mercilesity about ensuing that the conev was in the site guiled mercilesity about ensuing that the conev was not his, about what he other was oling because we have that, although we each had a slightly different approach terms ensuing the site index. The data had only one reave partner not negoed mane that we had inherited. With these appoint the surger on time of moving into our we surger, when we were looking forward to this happy event were had to this neve that in the middle of the village rea-tor the surger on time of maving into our we surger when we were looking forward to this happy event were strated with a neve of land to will on the bigen in arrying the sign of the surger on the surger on time

over to the memorial football provid, which was are that there an orchard-am ideal quict situation to enable us to begin with a clean sheet of paper. Many hours were spent travelling to look at other buildings and talking to doctors about their ideas; and many more hours were spent reguing and discussing among ourselves about the end result. This was a suphimical effort into which we all entered about the major items and constitution of the light of the end result. This was a suphimical effort into which we all entered about the major items and construction of the light. Deputies the there was argument about the finer details, because each partner wanted the furmiture and fittings in his consulting and examina-tion rooms in accordance with his taste. For example, we had to decide individually where the wash basin, electric points, couches, deaks, witches, lights, and to forth were to be architect on how we width de building to be constructed that the final plans he produced closely approximated to the ideas with which we had started. The move into our new premises was to be a red letter day and one of which we would be proud, though a little apprehensive in case anything should turn out to be a dissuter. The builders were on time with their estimate,

Williton, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4QE R J R LEWIS, MB, 85, general practitioner Correspondence to: The Surgery, Robert Street, Williton, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4QE.

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All systems shut down we supery, when we were looking forward to this happy event with egger anticipation, our sail off if ut to travel on holiday to provide the set anticipation, our sail off if ut to travel on holiday to provide the set anticipation, our sail off if ut to travel on holiday to provide the set anticipation, our sail off if ut to travel receptions in helped us with an increment off a a new jump reception of the set of the increment that we would never over set han allow the set of the

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BRITISM MEDICAL JOINNAL VOLUME 280 19 AARCH 1983 work load upset the normal routine running of the practice, and though our system was gared to managing whitout one doctor other holidays that been booked and because there are always patients who wait to consult a particular doctor on his return. We were faced then with this extra work load and the decisions shill required by our new surgery, in addition to the negotiations that were in train to sell the old premises. This had kept the remaining partners at full stretch, wereked the holiday tota, and immediately called for an alteration in our working week to compensate. Fortunately, we were able to enlish the help of an at some inconvenience, which helped to lighten the load. But perhaps the most traumatic experience for the practice was realising that we had to appoint a third new partner (out of six) within 18 monts. It had been replacements for retiring partners, which this time round it was to replace an active worker in full flight.

#### Selecting a new partner

Selecting a new partner to fi into our practice routine was the next step in our rehabilitation. Choosing from 100 applicants, all well qualified and vocationally trained, brought us the widest possible selection of British and foreign graduates of both sexes. Nearly all had MRCOP and DRCOG, several had higher qualifications, such as MRCP, FRCS, FFA, and one had the MRCOG. These did not influence or blind the partners one way or the other, our overriding decision being to find someone

# **Overlapping with General Practice**

## Advice bureau

BRIDGET GREEVES

948

Grey areas

BRIDGEI GREEVES Against one wall sit a giv with a new baby crying on her knee, a middle aged man with "unemployed" stamped all over him, a grey woman staring at but not seeng a leafter called "What to do after a deth," and a tenanger with a head injury. Against appers ominously marked "Perional File," worps residue newspopers in a carrier bag, and a pregnant woman in a sari whose young ion is softly translating a poster to her. If this seems like your waiting room wit's not—it's mine. What our clients look like and the problems they bring, the solutions they seek, and the use they make of bureaux often have many similarities with the patients in your surgeries. In appearance our bureau in Tottenham could well be a group procise or small health centre. We have a shop from they, we hope, clean notices telling people to wait and usually several "old" clients who teach newcomers the ropes and some-times use the witing time to give drivic themselves, About half of the people we find in the waiting room have been to us before, and they will wait to see the same advire again. They will all normally have an interview slone with an adviser—there

Tottenham Advice Bureau, 290 High Road, London Nis 4Aj BRIDGET GREEVES, MA, diploma in social work studies, organiser

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Grey areas So some problems are essentially grey areas and clients are prioring to go on choosing for themselves which type of pro-fersional help they want, offer with a logic that eccapes us There are others where each profession haves a part of the doctors concern cliems from the Department of Health and Social Security or compensation claims that need medical ovidence or support. I confess that it makes me jaclous to have a part of the security of the security of the doctors concern. Furthermore, however borng and bureaures. Those requests that it makes me jaclous to how buy god-like doctors can be in small areas of the law and bureaures. Those requests which must however borng the security of the security of the security of the points in housing applications. Furthermore, however borng there have larged been sevent less for social parts and the security of the security of the security of the GP rain get (1380 per week ext for looking and bedding. There have larged been sevent less casses using key medical or part of the security of the only menus by which serious that parts on unit hote. The security of the only menus by which serious the part of the security of the only menus by which serious the part of the security of the only menus by which serious the part of the security of the only menus by which serious the part of the security of the security of the security of the part of the security of the security of the security of the part of the security of the security

are five in Tottenham—although there is a sometimes obtrusive telephone on the desk and occasionally a student sitting in. The middle classes say "The never been to a place like this before," but the others broadly lump all agencier together and treat us like the doctor, the social worker, the man at the building society, their stor's headmintress-all are seen in rooms with three chairs, a desk, and britisk for the children.

### No need to advertise

No need to advertise Why do they come to our bureau } It is clear enough when it is about claims of unfair diamisal from warning letter to industrial thround, which take up much of our time, as do problems with social security and debt, which require seemingly endless interviews and negotiations. Then there are landfords and builders to chase, divorce and probate papers to deal with, and immigration problems to sort out. This is the mainstream of our work, and we think that we are specialists in financial and employment problems and refer to experts when we are Box what shout the clients with problems that do not have a specialist helping agency—the depression after a sacking or a bereatwement, clashes between adult members in a family or with aggressive neighbours, localiens, subjift nurtinest<sup>2</sup> Surgery, advice bureau, social services—we each take a share

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headaches, the stiffness, and the tension. Claims for compensa-tion drag on endlessly, and require going over the same ground repeatedly and reliving the socieden to the attack. The pain and the memory is "outstanding" as long as the claim is un-resolved.

## Fit for what?

Tenoreal **Fit for what ? Fit may call does ? Fit for what ? Fit may call does ? Fit for what ? Fit may call does ? Fit for what ? Fit may call does ? Fit may call does**