

Obituary

THOMAS WISHART DAVIDSON, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, The Towers Hospital, Leicester.

Thomas Wishart Davidson, who was elected a Foundation Fellow in 1971, died on 24 June 1982 at the age of 82.

During his first appointment to Winwick Hospital, Cheshire, he became interested in the malarial treatment of GPI and was as a result seconded to the London School of Tropical Medicine. In 1925 he began his long and fruitful association with the Towers Hospital, Leicester, first as assistant medical officer and pathologist and later, in 1937, as medical superintendent. He retired in 1959.

He had wide interests both within and without medicine. He was, for example, a keen gardener, a talented musician and a devotee of French language and literature.

ANNA FREUD, Director, Hampstead Child Therapy Clinic, 20 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3.

Dr Anna Freud, the founder and doyenne of child analysis, died in London on 9 October 1982 in her 87th year. She was born in Vienna on 3 December 1895 and was the sixth child of Sigmund Freud. Miss Freud's closeness to her father gained expression in her dedication to psychoanalysis where she made original contributions. As a leading world authority on child psychology, she and her team of co-workers were unrivalled in the systematic study of normal and pathological child development which combined clinical, theoretical and therapeutic training methods based on psychoanalysis. Her writings have now been issued in eight volumes.

Richly endowed in many ways, like her father, with intellectual and character attributes, her personality had very individual qualities. She was possessed of endless curiosity, charm and wit, and enjoyed physical pursuits such as swimming and riding until late in her life. Anna's response to the heavy burden of her father's long illness was to become 'nurse, a truly "personal" physician, companion, assistant secretary, co-worker and altogether a shield against the intrusions of the outer world.' Anna remained deeply grateful to England where the Freud family settled following their rescue from Nazi persecution in 1938. Thirty-three years later, when invited by the Viennese authorities to return for a visit, she quipped that she would only do so if she could enter the City riding on a Lippizaner. Such a fantasy ran totally counter to her characteristic unostentation, but symbolically expressed her clear view of human values. Sigmund Freud's horse and rider theme were indicative of the ego's final mastery over the irrational id. Anna reproduced it in a reparative setting.

Anna Freud's early training as a teacher showed her to have a capacity for hard work, managerial skill and an

ability to evoke dedication and affection in colleagues and pupils. These qualities as an educator were to last all her life and gain expression in the planning of training courses in psychoanalysis for adults at the British Psychoanalytic Society and for children at the Hampstead Child Therapy Course and Clinic. As an international guest speaker she was renowned for her lucid, informed delivery made without notes. Such expositions inspired young psychiatrists in training to follow psychoanalytical teachings and in this way psychoanalysis became more acceptable to British psychiatry as the basis for the teaching of psychodynamic psychotherapy.

As a trained psychoanalyst she was admitted to the Membership of the Vienna Psychoanalytical Society in 1922 for a paper on fantasy in childhood. Among her early writings, *The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defence* still serves as a classical introduction to this subject. She had the gift of clearly enunciating complex issues and observations, based on encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. Particularly relevant are papers on 'Acting Out', 'Aggression', 'Mutual Influences of Ego and Id', 'Obsessional Neurosis', 'Some Thoughts about the Place of Psychoanalytic Theory in the Training of Psychiatrists' and, newly available in English, 'A Study Guide to Freud's Writings'.

All her writings in child psychology are relevant for child psychiatrists. A wealth of clinical observation was drawn from the residential Hampstead War Nurseries which she created with Dorothy Burlingham. In 1945 the Nurseries were succeeded by the Hampstead Child Therapy Course and Clinic. Miss Freud systematized her clinical and theoretical stance in *Normality and Pathology of Childhood*. The early psychoanalytical theory of child development was based on reconstructions made in adult analyses. Miss Freud observed actual infant behaviour, related it to material drawn from later child analyses and used this as a mutual check against theories deduced from adults. Emphasis was laid on a knowledge of normal child development along 'developmental lines'. Childhood pathology was then classified according to departures from the norm. The relationship between child development and adult psychiatric disorder was extensively studied by her and in the stream of researches by followers stimulated by her work.

In *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child* and *Before the Best Interests of the Child*, written in conjunction with Professors Joseph Goldstein and Albert Solnit, the legal aspects of family life, divorce, adoption, fostering and separation were revised in volumes which have altered American and British law practice, and deserve attention from psychiatrists dealing with these problems.

In all Anna Freud addressed the College on three occasions. She was elected to the Honorary Fellowship in