

# Llewelyn Ralph Twentyman Dies

June 6, 1914 – April 29, 2010

## Jay Yasgur, RPh, MSc

A towering figure, the doyen of British homeopathy recently passed away, Llewelyn Ralph Twentyman. Twentyman was not just a homeopath but a devoted anthroposophist as well. Early on he was fortunate to have met Karl Koenig, the great anthroposophical physician and founder of the Camphill movement. Koenig introduced Twentyman to anthroposophical medicine, in particular to mistletoe (Iscador) therapy for the treatment of cancer.

"It seemed to me then, and has continued to do so, that Steiner's most comprehensive work and method could offer the basis for a fruitful and healthy development of a medicine which was not founded on lifeless, mechanistic theories. Later, Owen Barfield was to write of anthroposophy as Romanticism Comes of Age." - Ralph Twentyman (*Medicine, Mythology and Spirituality*, 2004, p. ix).

Twentyman received his medical degree in 1943 from Cambridge University, trained at University College Hospital, and then served in the Royal Airforce Medical Service in Iraq. Upon his return, he studied homeopathy at the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital (RLHH); he later was appointed consultant physician there. During his long tenure at the RLHH he introduced the use of Iscador for the treatment of cancer as a valid extension of Hahnemann's approach. He received his FFHom in 1959.

Beginning in 1958, Dr. Twentyman edited the *British Homoeopathic Journal* for twenty-one years and wrote scores of articles and several books, including *The Science and Art of Healing* (1989) and *Medicine, Mythology and Spirituality: Recollecting the Past and Willing the Future* (2004). "The solution proposed by this book is the integration of the material and spiritual realms. His book is full of fascinating examples of how to look at our world differently. Goethe, a contemporary of Hahnemann, espoused the view that with

imagination it was possible to see the living metamorphosing 'idea' of a living organism." - Mimi Irwin (Book Review, *Homeopathy*, 94:1, 1/2005, pp. 59,60).

Of course, he lectured extensively and taught at the Missionary School of Medicine (MSM). Philip Price, the author of *Touching the Ends of the Earth* (2003) relates this anecdote:

"A favourite story told by Dr. Twentyman was 'The Brown Paper Remedy,' a case study of a very successful treatment of a lady patient. It included her reference to some homely remedies which she had tried. Her own conclusion about her cure was that, 'It must have been the brown paper in which they were wrapped!'" - *ibid*, p. 69).

Interviewer John Havelock-Davies ('An Interview with Ralph Twentyman' - *American Homoeopath*, #8, 2002, pp. 4-12) conveyed his feelings:

"And as we talked, I became aware that this was someone whose depth of insight and experience charted one of the major intellectual devel-

opments of the 20th century: the restatement of a concept of humanity that sought to heal the Cartesian separation of mind and body. This was a movement of many facets, ranging on the one hand from the exploration of the unconscious and the formation of theories of psychosomatic disease, to an increasing interest in mythology and spiritual practice on the other. From Freud and Groddeck [see *The Meaning of Illness: Selected Psychoanalytic Writings*], Jung, and Steiner, there is an unbroken line of descent to Whitmont and Twentyman. This was more than casual conversation; it was a moment of rare but special privilege, the sharing of a lifetime's wisdom." - *ibid*, p. 4).

Twentyman was born into a wealthy family and grew-up in the countryside. He was privately tutored until the age of nine when he went to preparatory school in Liphook. He



completed he pre-college schooling at Shrewsbury Public School and, on scholarship, went to Cambridge. Medical school didn't quite agree with him; so he took a bit of time off and went to London. There he found his spiritual mentor, Dimitrije Mitrinovic (1887- 1953), who broadened his horizons significantly; i.e., introduced him to Koenig and anthroposophy. Twentyman returned to Cambridge and finished his studies.

In 1956, Twentyman and Dr. John Robertson Raeside became friends and mutually introduced the anthroposophical medical approach into the RLHH. Koenig introduced Twentyman to Drs. A. Leroy and Kaelin, two physicians who were pioneers in mistletoe therapy.

In 1972, Ralph and his wife, Grizzy, were to be on the plane which crashed, killing about fifteen homeopaths, a catastrophe known as the Staines air disaster. Fortunately, Ralph and Grizzy had changed their reservations in order to visit Bruges a few days before the homeopathic congress in Brussel. When they arrived at the congress, they heard the shocking news and Twentyman's address turned into a speech memorializing his colleagues.

In 1975, Grizzy died and, in 1979, the year of his retirement, Anneli Raeside (John Robertson's widow) and Twentyman wed. From that time on, he concentrated on lecturing, writing and finishing two books. Anneli would accompany him on his lecture tours and would give her own workshops.

Twentyman did not visit the states often and, luckily, I heard him in 1984 while attending the National Center for Homeopathy's three week summer school at Marymount College, in Arlington, VA.

If memory serves, the title of that Saturday evening talk was "The Moon and Silver."

The good doctor entranced us and, spellbound, we drifted slowly off to our dorm rooms. It was a present, a bedtime story which still speaks. Sometimes only the briefest of encounters serve to provide lasting, life-long inspiration.

Twentyman was just that, "twenty men." After impressing the angels with his work here on Earth, they now, in turn, are doing their 'work' on him, and when he incarnates in the future, his gifts will have multiplied manifold.

Well done Twentyman, well done!



## *The Minimum Price Books*

250 H St., PO Box 2187, Blaine, WA 98231

To order call toll free: 1-800-663-8272

**A huge selection of professional homeopathic literature including textbooks, provings, tapes, journals, seminars and rare self-published gems**

**\*\* Call for our full catalog or visit our website at [www.minimum.com](http://www.minimum.com) \*\***