

Copy Wesley to info.

**Code A**

9 February 1999

Dear Inspector Fuge.

I received a letter from D.I. Morgan this morning dated 8/2/99 confirming that the fee in relation to my Mother's death is now with the Portsmouth CPS.

I enclose a copy of a letter to D.I. Morgan dated 5 February together with relevant media coverage in the Times 6-9 January as other relevant cases. If the points made to D.C. on 2 October 1998 have not been included in the write-up I can almost predict the outcome.

Code A

This case is going to be exposed - I hope it will be in a dignified and not manner in a Court of law.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

Daily Telegraph, 11.12.2000

hesley.

Maybe you might be interested.

The British are always years behind. Have

spoken Professor Ballard dept &

recommended research

Dr. Peter Began

'Toxic Psychiatry' published in UK 1992

(The book I sent to Dr. Bennett.

Haloperidol, Trifluoperazine - Neuroleptics.

S.

Would send copy to Bennett. Maybe I know a drug or two.

# Alzheimer drugs 'may be harmful'

TELEGRAPH  
11.12.00

BY CELIA HALL  
MEDICAL EDITOR

THOUSANDS of elderly people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and dementia are being prescribed drugs that could be making their symptoms worse, researchers said yesterday.

An estimated 30,000 people a year, most of them living in residential and nursing homes, are being given the drugs inappropriately.

Neuroleptics, also called major tranquillisers, are prescribed to make patients quieter and more manageable.

British research, to be published in the New Year, says that there is evidence that they are given too freely.

Researchers say the drugs are too often used instead of nursing care and that vulnerable people are often inadequately monitored.

Dr Clive Ballard, of the Institute for the Health of the Elderly in Newcastle

General Hospital, led the study. He said yesterday: "It is indisputable that the drugs are over prescribed.

"There is a fear that if they are discontinued there will be problems in care homes, but this is not the experience in America where there is now legislation that restricts prescribing.

"There is a problem that the drugs are used as a substitute for good, practical care management. There needs to be investment in the proper training of staff."

Dr Ballard and colleagues found that those taking the drugs suffered significantly reduced well-being, spent more time socially withdrawn and less time engaged in activities.

His research looked at a range of psychotropic drugs, those that have an effect on the mind, including neuroleptics. Patients taking neuroleptics were the worst

Continued on Page 4

## Alzheimer's drug fear

Continued from Page 1

The research, to be published in the journal *International Psychogeriatrics*, says that many patients did not need the drugs, which could be detrimental to them.

"This is particularly true for psychotropic drugs, which had a substantially more deleterious effect upon quality of life than the target symptoms for which they were prescribed," Dr Ballard writes.

In his study, 209 elderly people with dementia living in four residential and two nursing homes in Newcastle were identified. A third of these was not taking drugs.

In a rating of quality of life 11 per cent had "ill-being", 24 per cent had poor well-being and 64 per cent had fair or good well-being.

Only a small number of

people had severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia but most were receiving drugs.

"People taking neuroleptics were particularly at risk of 'ill-being'."

Dr Ballard found that more than 40 per cent of those studied were taking a neuroleptic drug, many of whom did not have clinically significant symptoms.

"Either the treatment was initiated inappropriately or the treatment had not been reviewed following the resolution of the target symptom."

Dr Ballard is about to begin a five-year study of the effect of discontinuing a neuroleptic drug in people with dementia.

Some 530,000 people suffer from Alzheimer's disease and 60,000 a year die.

# Euthanasia: A judge warns doctors must not 'play God'

AS HISTORY was being rewritten last week with the revelation that King George V's death was hastened with drugs injected by his physician, a High Court judge restated the British judiciary's views on the illegality of euthanasia, whether with or without the patient's consent.

Mr Justice Mars-Jones declared: "A doctor is not entitled to play God and cut short life because the time has come to end the pain and suffering and to enable his patient to 'die with dignity'."

But despite a summing-up clearly hostile to the defence case, a jury at Leeds crown court yesterday cleared a family doctor of trying to kill a terminally ill cancer patient with an overdose of drugs. The defence claimed that the overdose was "a ghastly mistake".

The jury decided by a majority verdict that Dr John Douglas Carr, 59, was not guilty of attempted murder in

by Neville Hodgkinson  
Medical Correspondent



Mars-Jones: law to the end

having administered the overdose, given to 63-year-old Ronald Mawson.

In his summing-up, Mars-Jones told the jury that the patient did not want to die, and even if he did, killing him would have been illegal. "However gravely ill a man may be, however near his death he is, he is entitled in

our law to every hour, nay every minute of life that God has granted him.

"That hour or hours may be the most precious and most important hours of a man's life. There may be business to transact, gifts to be given, forgivenesses to be said, attitudes to be expressed, farewells to be made, 101 bits of unfinished business which have to be concluded."

During the 14-day hearing the prosecution alleged that Carr had given the cancer patient 1,000 milligrams instead of 150 milligrams of the drug phenobarbitone to "let him die with dignity".

After the jury, seemingly determined not to brand the doctor as a criminal, returned its verdict yesterday, the judge refused to grant costs to the defence.

Carr said later through his solicitor: "I have tried to serve at all times the best interests of my patients."

The jury's verdict came two

days after it was revealed by the biographer Francis Watson that in 1936 a fatal dose of morphia and cocaine was given to George V to bring about a "brief final scene".

Those revelations, along with the Leeds case, add urgency to a current review by the British Medical Association of the guidelines it issues to doctors on euthanasia. A working party, set up at the request of delegates at the association's annual meeting earlier this year, is expected to report by next March.

The existing guidelines are acknowledged by the BMA to need clarification. They emphasise the profession's "total abhorrence" of compulsory euthanasia, in which someone's life is terminated either against his will or without his being able to consent. But voluntary euthanasia does have followers, the guidelines state.

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PETER GODFRI  
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Judge directed jury to guilty verdict.  
Jury euthanasia verdict due to "error"  
Precedent could be overruled in other circumstances.  
Lance 1987-1988 The Times