

BJPpsych

The British Journal of Psychiatry

Editor-in-Chief: Professor Gin Malhi



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Fernandez-Egea et al

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Tromans et al

Can liaison neurology add value to patient care within a mental health setting?

Ward et al

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'The Group' (oil on board, 1965) featured in Bethlem Museum of the Mind's 'A World Apart: the work of Charles Lutyens' until 30 November 2024. Lutyens (1933–2021) was an art therapist whose own artistic practice was deeply influenced by a course of psychoanalysis he underwent in his thirties.

The picture depicts a ward meeting of the type that was commonplace during Lutyens' working lifetime. He found the scenes he witnessed there profoundly moving. "A person is there, angry, dark faced, withholding", in the words of his widow. "Then something is said, or asked, or suggested, and if the person can hear it, and their inner self responds and can accept and acknowledge it, then it is as though the face is transformed with an inner light, and, Charles thought, like an angel appearing".

Lutyens drew inspiration from experiences like these in fulfilling a five-year commission to cover the walls of St Paul's, Bow Common, with mosaics representing 'The Angels of the Heavenly Host'. This is one of two master-works, the other being 'Outraged Christ' at Liverpool Cathedral. But Lutyens did not only treat sacred themes. Bethlem Museum of the Mind's 'A World Apart' showcased works depicting the everyday living environments of the psychogeriatric wards on which he worked. These offer vivid and sometimes confronting snapshots of institutional life. Even at its most challenging, however, Lutyens' work is always compassionate and reflective.

Colin Gale

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museumofthemind.org.uk

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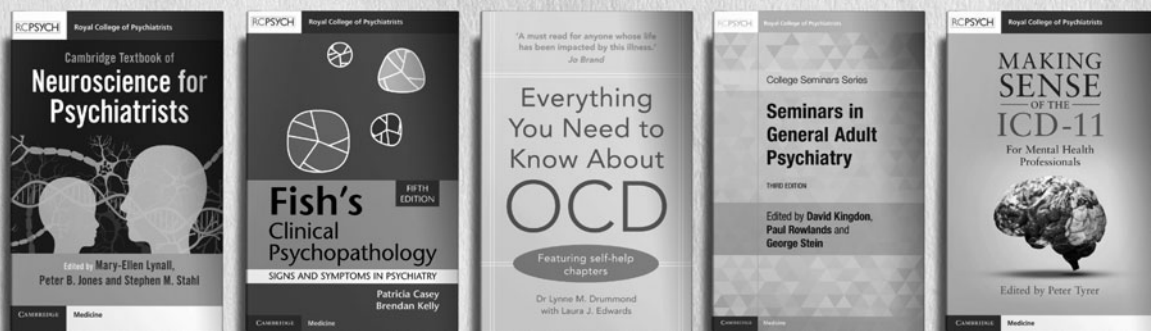
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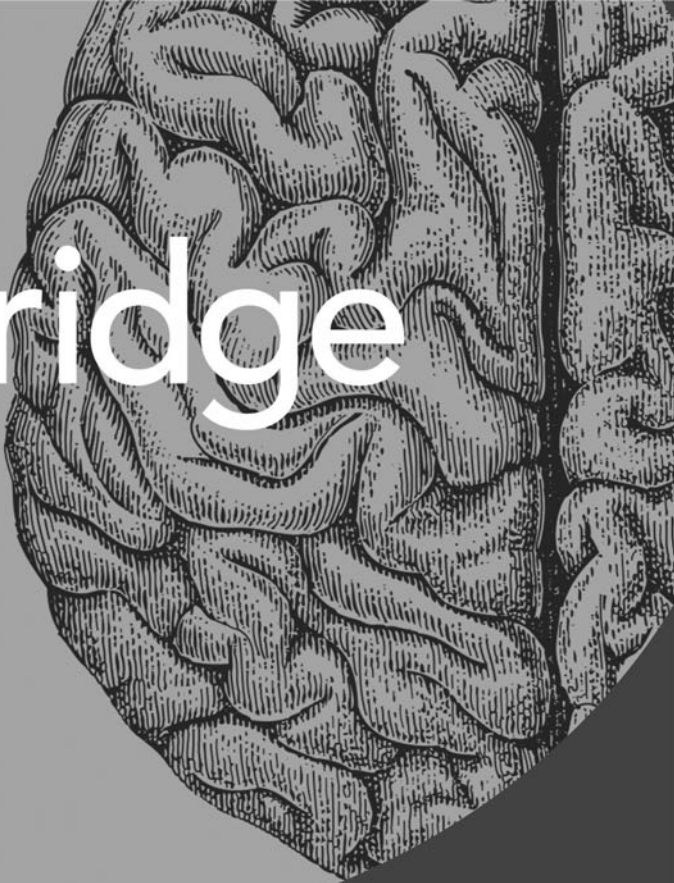
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