

THE NATIONAL HOSPITALS
FOR NERVOUS DISEASES

THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL
QUEEN SQUARE LONDON WC1N 3BG
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3 June 1988

Mrs Jean Manson
Principal Social Worker
(Child Care)
Department of Education
Government Offices
BUCKS ROAD
DOUGLAS
TRIER OF MAN

Dear Mrs Manson

Re: EAN PROCTOR dob 5.5.75
45 ASHLEY PARK, ONCHAN

I am writing at your request to summarise my contact with Ean and his parents during his stay at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases between the 23rd of March 1988 and the 6th April 1988. I was requested to see him by Dr. J Morgan-Hughes, Consultant Neurologist. I saw Ean and his parents, and discussed the case with Dr Ron, Consultant Psychiatrist.

Ean presented with a history of an ability to use any muscle groups which amounted to a paraplegia, together with elected mutatism. His parents were strongly of the opinion that he is suffering from 'myopic encephalitis'. I did not perform a physical examination, but was told by the neurologists that there was no evidence of any physical pathology sufficient to explain the severity of his illness. Mental state examination showed him to be alert and cooperative, without any evidence of any alteration of consciousness nor any evidence of a major mental illness such as severe depression or psychosis. Even without the benefit of the extensive neurological investigations that have been performed, I was in absolutely no doubt that the primary problem was psychiatric. My initial impression was that Ean's condition was a form of hysteria, in other words, his apparent illness was out of all proportion to the original cause.

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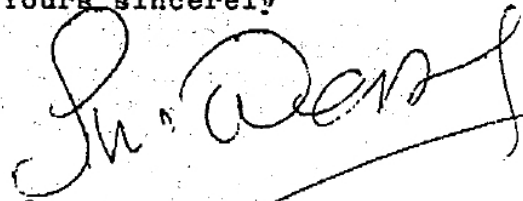
3.6.1988 Continued 2

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It was agreed by all the specialists involved in Ean's care, a treatment would be organised with the cooperation of a paediatrician and a psychiatrist. We are very fortunate to have been able to persuade Great Ormond Street to rapidly offer a bed where Ean was admitted under the joint supervision of Dr Brian Lask, Consultant Psychiatrist and the Professorial Paediatric team. I was convinced this was an admirable arrangement and offered the best hope for Ean's future. I was very perturbed to learn that the parents were opposed to this idea, but my feelings lessened when they finally agreed to Ean's transfer.

Having learnt of the subsequent events, I share the concern expressed by other doctors. I feel that Ean's parents are well meaning, but are very over involved in his care, and are certainly seriously over committed to one particular diagnosis. I have considerable experience in the subject of 'myalgic encephalomyelitis', and am absolutely certain that whatever the status or exact diagnosis, it did not apply to Ean. I feel that Ean needs a long period of rehabilitation, part of which will involve very skilled management of separation from his parents, and the restoring of his independence, and providing an escape from his 'ill' world. For this reason I support the application made by your department for wardship.

Yours sincerely



Simon Wessely
Senior Registrar in Psychiatry
MA BM BCH MRCPsych MRCP
Approved Under Section 12 of the 1953 Mental Health Act
