

a new final phase of his life, and Jacques accepts the losses and false hopes of his work and family.

Throughout this whole novel the scientific theories that dominated the neurological world and formed the foundation of psychiatry at this time are laid out, often in great detail. Whilst of interest, especially to those wishing to understand these formative years of psychiatry, they can arrest the flow of the story and impede the unfolding of the narrative. Indeed some reviewers have criticised the book as being more concerned with describing research than being a novel. Whilst this is true in parts, and there are many diversions which seem to be not wholly necessary – for example the trips to America and Africa by Jacques and Thomas respectively- there is nevertheless an underlying rhythm to the work which drives the reader on to find out how these different philosophies will work themselves out in the lives of the main characters. En route the reader is invited to engage with a range of interesting questions, not least of which is why mental illness is so common given its destructive nature on patients and families and what it can tell us about con-

sciousness and the human mind and soul. Whilst Jacques and Thomas try to answer this question from different perspectives, Kitty and Sonia seek to understand such things using less rigorous approaches and in many ways seem to have a greater, more profound understanding of what it is to be human. This they would argue is through relationships and love with their attendant memories and a sense of tomorrow and looking beyond oneself. Thus the true human traces are those left by our effect on and interactions with others, physically, mentally and spiritually. This is no better encapsulated than in the moving speech by Thomas at the end of the book, where, guided by his wife Kitty at the final family reunion, Thomas describes his own evaluation of his life: as a doctor he feels he has achieved nothing (although others disagree) but in love he has been rich.

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News Review

A 2007 Challenge...

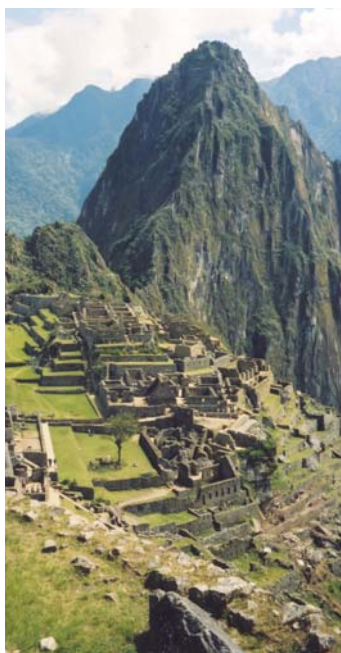
Are you or someone you know interested in taking part in a once in a lifetime trek or cycle ride whilst at the same time raising money for Headway – the brain injury association?

In 2007 Headway are offering the following trips:

15-25 Feb	-	Cuba Cycle Ride
17-25 Mar	-	Sahara Trek
27 Apr-6 May	-	China Trek
13-17 Jun	-	London to Paris Cycle Ride
18-26 Aug	-	Iceland Trek
14-23 Sep	-	Peru Trek
27 Oct - 8 Nov	-	Vietnam Cycle Ride

We will take care of all event organisation and administration, leaving you to concentrate on raising sponsorship and preparing for the trip.

For further details please contact:
Rachel Broughton,
Events and Conferences Officer,
Tel: +44 (0)115 924 0800 or
Email: eventsandconferences@headway.org.uk



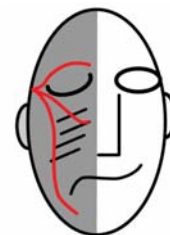
Primary Care Neurology Society Conference

The Primary Care Neurology Society will be holding one annual conference in England and one conference in Scotland in 2007. The first conference will be on the 17th of May at the Birmingham Hippodrome. The date and venue for the Scotland conference is still to be finalised. Over 180 people attended their conferences in 2006 with 93% rating it good or excellent. "Brilliant conference – I've learnt a lot and will approach my

neurological patients with more confidence" and "Excellent lecturers and content – thank-you" were just two of the many positive comments received. The Society is keen to develop a 2007 programme that reflects the interests of their members and is offering a 40% discount on the conference delegate fee on completion of the pre-conference questionnaire which you can access from www.p-cns.org.uk.

Trigeminal Neuralgia Association UK – first 2-day conference

Trigeminal Neuralgia Association UK will hold its first two day conference at Keele University on 30 June-1 July 2007. The programme will include eminent speakers from the USA and the UK and this event will include a Continuing Education Programme for healthcare practitioners. All interested professionals



and non-professionals are welcome to attend the conference as it will be an opportunity to meet Trigeminal Neuralgia patients and encourage two-way communication about the difficulties faced by patients. From previous conference evaluations, patients and professionals have valued the interaction that this type of conference encourages.

The proposed healthcare professionals' conference is aimed at dentists, local GPs, neurologists and neurosurgeons. The fee for the conference will include full refreshments, and accommodation is available if required. Full details will be published in future editions of ANCR, but please make a note of the date.

The aim of the programme is to increase healthcare professionals' awareness of trigeminal neuralgia, especially its diagnosis and up-to-date management. From recent data produced by Hall et al (Pain, 2006) on the epidemiology of neuropathic pain in the UK, it would appear that trigeminal neuralgia is more common than previously thought in UK medical practices. Its incidence has been put at 26.8 per 100,000, whereas this was thought to be 4-6 in 100,000. Carbamazepine is the drug of choice but this is only prescribed to 58% of patients.

For further information contact:
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