

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

KARL LEONHARD, Emeritus Professor, Nervenlinik Charite, Berlin, East Germany (Corresponding Fellow).

Karl Leonhard died unexpectedly on 23 April 1988, shortly after his 84th birthday.

Only in the past few years has his work gained international recognition. His concepts have their base in the tradition of Wernicke and Kleist, but extend far beyond. The ever-increasing interest in his work, especially outside Germany, can be demonstrated by the fact that his books and journal articles have been translated into many languages and his books are repeatedly published.

He was born on 21 March 1904 in Edelsfeld in Bavaria as the son of a Lutheran priest. He attended the 'Humanistic Gymnasium' in Weiden, Upper Palatinate until 1923, before studying medicine in Erlangen, Berlin and Munich. After working as a medical assistant for a short period at the Mental Hospital of the University of Erlangen, he accepted a position at the Hospital Gabersee in Upper Bavaria in 1931. A year later he was promoted to the position of Assistant Medical Director. Kleist offered Leonhard a position as Assistant Medical Director at the Mental Hospital of Frankfurt's University in 1936, and he was granted the title Professor in 1944. In 1955, he was made full Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the Medical Academy in Erfurt before transferring to the Mental Hospital of the Humboldt University in Berlin in 1957.

After his retirement he devoted himself fully to psychiatric research for which he was generously provided with facilities and personnel.

It is beyond the scope of this obituary to discuss in detail the life work of this remarkable man. Without question, among his most important contributions must be mentioned: the description of cycloid psychosis, the characterisation of the defective conditions of schizophrenia, which he referred to as "systematical schizophrenias" and the differentiation of bipolar and monopolar forms of affective illnesses. He laid strong emphasis on the phenomenological cross-section and on the longitudinal section. Genetic relationships and the ordinal position of the patient among his siblings were also points of emphasis in his work.

Professor Leonhard's contributions to the study of neuroses and psychotherapy have been given too little recognition, taking into consideration that he can justly be referred to as the founder of behavioural

therapy, although he himself never wanted recognition for this fact.

His very original ideas regarding human sexuality were presented in his book *Instincts and Primitive Instincts of Human Sexuality*, which was published in 1964. He thereby used aspects of the phylogenesis of human sexuality to demonstrate apparent relationships. In *Human Expression, through Mimic, Gesture and Phonics*, which was printed in 1976, he demonstrated once again his ability to recognise and categorise systematically human expressive behaviour.

He achieved success too in neurological research. His analysis of numerical types, his definition of the 'Frontal-lobe Syndrome' as well as his definition of ideokinetic motor aphasia have not been contradicted.

How could such an excellent body of scientific research pass almost unnoticed? Could it have been the result of the individuality of his scientific orientation, which was not only contrary to trends in contemporary scientific thought, but rejected common beliefs outside? Or could it have been the lack of emphasis on a control element in his methodology, which he did not consider as essential? A third possible reason could lie in Leonhard's personality, which he himself referred to as introverted and compulsive.

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FREDERICK KRÄUPL TAYLOR, Emeritus Physician, The Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, London



Dr Frederick Kräupl Taylor died in London on 24 March 1989, aged 83. He provided the factual basis for his own obituary in a "Perspective", (*Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists*, January 1982, 6, 2–4). The bulk of the piece is devoted to a summarised account of his principal contributions:

three books (*The Analysis of Therapeutic Groups*; *Psychopathology: its Causes and Symptoms*; *The Concepts of Illness, Disease and Morbus*), several key papers, and the development of his own individual brand of 'prokalectic' psychotherapy. This account is introduced by a brief description of how, in