Jung at heart

Rick Clarke

I was wandering through the ward clutching an auroscope in search of a patient suffering from severe psychological and behavioural problems who was complaining, inter alia, of a blockage in her ears. I encountered her consultant, a Jungian, who when informed of my purpose, responded that this was the most important development in years as it meant she was ready to listen!

Several years later I came across a very similar patient, who by coincidence, had been referred to the national unit where I was working by the aforementioned consultant. This patient's repertoire of disturbed behaviour included swallowing various exotic items. However, on being told at the ward round that he had swallowed 12p in small denomination coins I was fortunately able to conclude that here again was a most important development – it meant he was ready for change!

Rick Clarke, Senior Registrar, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SE1 9TR