

changes were planned. The husband, for instance, would be cast as a rigid, yet possibly decent man, struggling to restrain, without breaking, his fragile wife. For a long time I listened, adding nothing, since nothing was missing. I could only agree it made sense to explain a collapsing relationship and not just expose it.

On the opening night I met the play's designer. "So you're the shrink," she said. "You're not what I expected." I'd heard this one before. Did she think I'd be Austrian and 90? She nodded and said, "And taller".

Somehow the production had lost the ambiguities I'd admired: it was back to creaking psychomelodrama. When it came to the line "I've wanted you since first I clapped eyes on you", the audience began to snigger. In the bar later, Teddy was unconsolable. A woman approached and told him it was "f— — — — g awful" and the critics shared her

opinion. The woman, it turned out, was Mrs Kiendl. Teddy's novel interpretation took on a new significance.

I could only assume that the production had also lost its nerve, which explained why it had sought a psychiatric opinion it didn't need. It had made the error of thinking that professional comment can add to artistic insight when in fact the two are barely compatible. Which, I suppose, is why writers, although often doctors, are never psychiatrists.

D. H. Lawrence compared human emotion to a flower; you can understand it better by taking it to pieces but at the end you'll have no flower. It's the job of psychiatric thinking to take emotion to pieces but the artist needs to present it whole, with its ambiguities intact. The mistaken idea is that structured knowledge allows greater understanding than natural sensitivity. Of course it's the most satisfying of psychiatrist stories. It's also the tallest.

The following statement appeared in *Hospital Doctor*, 5 October 1989:

"Broadmoor Hospital: an apology

On 22 June we published a report headlined 'Charity claims inmates drugged without consent', claiming that patients in the Broadmoor Special Hospital were given 'tranquillisers and antidepressants without their explicit agreement'. *Hospital Doctor* quoted Mr Ian Bynoe of MIND in support of the allegation that

proper consent to drug treatment was not being obtained from Broadmoor patients. *Hospital Doctor* and Mr Bynoe accept that the allegations are not true. We apologise to all the medical and nursing staff at Broadmoor and to the hospital's Task Force for any distress that our erroneous report may have caused them and *Hospital Doctor* are pleased to make a donation to the League of Friends of Broadmoor Hospital as a token of our regret."

"Let us imagine a line drawn from Jesus Christ to Dr Gallup and passing through such eminent investigators of the human condition as Karl Marx, Max Weber, the Webbs and Dr Kinsey. While there might be differences of opinion about the order of names, I think it might be generally agreed that from Christ to Gallup the issues become pettier and the scope for research, particularly of a numerical kind, becomes greater."

T. MCKEOWN